

DEALING WITH DISAGREEMENT, DISSENSION, AND DIVISION

For the week of April 28, 2019

Passage: Acts 15:1-35

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

GOAL:

To approach dissension in the Church with a God-honoring attitude and course of action.

GET GOING:

- What's your natural tendency when you come up against disagreement, dissension, or division in your own personal life? Have you ever experienced it in the church?
- To help navigate disagreement, we need to do our part to seek God's heart. What are your personal practices for seeking God's heart?
- At the heart of this debate in Acts 15 is the work of circumcision. Review the following passages that talk about how our salvation is by grace alone, and not by works. Make a few observations from these passages. Is this a truth by which you live? Or can you at times live as though your good works are earning you more of God's favor?
 - Galatians 2:16
 - Galatians 2:21
 - Galatians 3:21
 - Galatians 5:6
 - Romans 3:20-22
 - Romans 4:1-3



KEEP GROWING:

- Inevitably, disagreement happens in the church, just like we saw in Acts 15. In light of this message, how would you approach disagreement when it happens in the church today? Have you ever practiced this in reality? If so, share this with the group.
- The conclusion of the Jerusalem council was that Gentiles didn't need to be circumcised but that they should "abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood" (Acts 15:20). What used to be a stipulation of the Old Covenant now became a personal preference. The principle is this: as Christians, we shouldn't allow personal preferences to become biblical mandates. Can you think of an area where you or someone you know is in danger of doing this?
- Far too often, Christians are known for our disagreements and judgments rather than our love and grace. What would you say to a non-believer who has sat by and watched disagreement in the church, and is hesitant to draw near to the Christian faith?

BONUS CHALLENGE:

Take time this week to read Genesis 15 and 17, God's covenant with Abraham. Take note of the promises that are made and who is responsible for fulfilling these promises.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them [Gentiles], by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8-9).

