

The First Apostolic Council: The Issue

Acts 15:1-5

August 7, 2022

Review:

- Acts 1 – Ascension and Outline
- Acts 2 – Pentecost – Holy Spirit given to church – Birth of Church
- Acts 3 – Peter/ John heal beggar
- Acts 4 – Before the Sanhedrin
- Acts 5 – Ananias/ Saphira & Apostles jailed and warned by Sanhedrin
- Acts 6 – Deacons selected & Stephen seized
- Acts 7 – Stephen before the Sanhedrin
- Acts 8 – Church Persecuted and scattered (Samaria!)
- Acts 9 – Saul's Conversion
- Acts 10 – Peter & Gentiles
- Acts 11 – Peter explains his actions to church leaders
- Acts 12 – Persecution & Peter's escape
- Acts 13 – Paul and Barnabas sent on mission journey
- Acts 14 – Paul's mission continued
- Acts 15 – Council at Jerusalem

Acts 15:1-5

Story:

1. Issue arises – Jewish group comes to “fix” the Gentile church.
2. Paul & Barnabas – Sharp dispute and debate!
3. On their way – they stopped at the churches and encouraged them!
4. Arrival and Report to the Leadership.
5. The challenge is given: Must become like us!

Key:

- Issue Arises: What does it mean to follow Christ?
 - Two groups – Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians
 - Jewish Christian: Marks – Temple, Sabbath Keeping, Food Laws, Circumcision
 - The Dispute – What must a person do to be saved?
 - Paul and Barnabas' reaction: Dispute and Debate!
 - Secondary Issue: How can Jewish Christians eat with Gentile Christians?

Application:

- How can you know you are saved?