



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 154 - You Have to Do This Our Way! (Acts 15)

You Have to Do it Our Way!

Change is not easy. It doesn't come easy in our churches today, and it didn't come easily to the first-century church either. When Gentiles started flooding into the church because of Barnabas' and Paul's first missionary journey, some well-meaning Jewish believers insisted they worship Jesus their way.

- What changes has your church wrestled with over the years?
- How did the congregation decide what changes to make and which not to make?
- What lessons have you learned when it comes to majority rule? What have you learned about the strong feelings of the minority? When do you know to draw a line?

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

By the Lord's grace, Paul was able to clearly see the danger lurking behind what the well-intentioned Jewish believers were insisting of the Gentile believers. He saw these Jewish Christians were having trouble letting go of the false, legalistic opinions they had brought with them, when they came to believe Jesus was the Messiah.

- Why is it so hard to see beyond the perspectives we were raised with?
- How does God help open our eyes to the truth?
- How can God use the fresh perspective of a new member in your church to open your eyes?

We have to watch carefully against the temptation to think we are pleasing to God because of what we do, say, or because of the traditions we keep. Jesus suffered and died to satisfy God's wrath against our sins, and He rose again to give us eternal life. We are saved only by His sacrifice—never our own work. Throughout his letter to the Galatians, Paul reminds that congregation—and us—to look only to Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Jerusalem Council Decision

From time to time, the church has gathered leaders together to pray, search the Scriptures, discuss and settle dangerous disputes. The meeting of church leaders before the apostles in Jerusalem was the first of these ecumenical (church-wide) councils.

- Why is it important to listen to a number of different Christians from different areas?
- What important disputes is the Christian church facing in our culture today?
- How can we foster better relationships within our congregation and among other congregations and denominations to work together to share God's message throughout the world today?