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# What Does God Want Of The Church?

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# WHAT DOES GOD WANT OF THE CHURCH?

Acts 15:13-21

I. The question is a tall order.

II. I'll answer it in the speech of one man.

A. It won't be all He wants.

B. But can't be less than some of these things. *Hurricane - 2 wk VZC.*

III. The Jerusalem Conference

A. Paul & Barnabas troubled them via Gentile converts.

1. *New idea troubles man.*

2. Death notice "We never did it that way before."

B. *Many spoke to the matter.*

1. Matter of Gentiles hung in the balance.

2. Emotions high.

C. James last - this shows several things God wants.

1. *Peace & Unity.*

2. *Good man.*

a) Lord's brother - speaks last.

b) 1st didn't believe in Jesus.

c) Now does - we can change men.

James 1:1

d) Jesus appeared to him.

1 Cor. 15:7

e) Pillar

Gal. 1:14

f) Camel knees from praying.

g) James the Just.

h) Rigorously obeyed laws-orthodox.

3. None of these men self seekers.

*Send the Best you've got!*

## IV. James' Speech

## A. Cites many sources

1. Simeon (Peter's old name), Amos, Jeremiah, Isaiah.
2. Didn't mention Paul & Barnabas - they brought the problem.

## B. God's Catholic Call.

1. Visits Gentiles.
  - a) Salvific visitation.

*Keep counting*

Luke 7:16

2. Gentiles
  - a) Universality seen.
  - b) Gentiles & Jews one - nothing to man.
3. People
  - a) **Laos (people) always Israel.**
  - b) **Ethne always others.**
  - c) **Now others are laos or Israel.**  
Prized people.
4. Prophets agree.
  - a) **Our works must conform to Scripture.**
  - b) Work of God takes preeminence.
5. Tabernacle
  - a) **Building of David.**
  - b) Deal with Israel first.

Rom. 1:16

- c) Such not an end but means to it - reach Gentiles.
- d) **God not in a temple.**
- e) **Gentiles can't go back to a literal temple - never had one.**
- f) **Called by gospel.**

2 Thess. 2:14

- g) House a spiritual one.
- h) David's Throne forever.

2 Sam. 7:16  
 1 Kings 2:4  
 Ps. 89:3-4  
 Lu. 1:32-33

6. Seek the Lord.

- a) All promises fulfilled in Christ.
- b) Don't impose any yoke Christ did not.

C. Trouble them not.

*Ever had mumps  
 Pice Krispies*

- 1. Don't outrage sensitivity of others.
- 2. Racial distinctions gone.
- 3. Trouble = annoyance by placing obstacles in path of others.
- 4. No impediment.
- 5. Terms of fellowship alike to all.

D. Write Them.

- 1. Respect independence of Sister church - Antioch.
- 2. Respect apostles & unity.
- 3. Holy Spirit concerned - v.28.
- 4. Note value of communication.

V. 4 Prohibitions.

A. Pollution of Idols.

- 1. Food offered.
- 2. Later in Western world ate.  
 1 Cor. 8:1
- 3. Offerer kept part of it.  
 Priest kept part of it.  
 Sold part of it.
- 4. Noachio Code - Gen. 9:4.

- 4.
5. Impose on Gentiles only those things independent of law of Moses.
  6. These laws ever binding & necessary
  7. Must be social intercourse in the church.
  8. Idolatry & fornication go together.

B. Fornication.

*Wedding Ring - too wide  
Circulation*

1. Porneia.
2. Chastity the only completely new virtue Christianity brought to world.
3. Pure in an impure world.
4. Feast immoral at time.
5. Priestess regarded sin as religion.

C. Strangle

D. Blood

VI. Moses

- A. Respect Pioneers
- B. Run not roughshod over lives of others.
- C. Keep Unity.
- D. Those that lost argument did not pull out.
- E. Life is a series of adjustments.
- F. Seek mind of Spirit in all matters of faith; Seek mind of Christ in all matters of conduct.
- G. Preserve Peace & Unity.
- H. Don't forget pioneers.
- I. Know the O.T.

but what God says stands supreme.

Henry Ward Beecher said, "The Bible is God's chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbor is, and how to reach it without running on rocks or bars." In any area of our life we need to understand that the will of God and the Word of God are inseparable. The Bible is our ultimate authority.

However, a danger also exists in going too far in the other direction. A cartoon character was found surrounded by his Bible and various reference books. When asked what he was doing the character responded, "I'm looking for some Bible verses to back up my preconceived ideas." Let us not take the approach that says, "Here's what I believe, now how can I support it from Scripture?" The Jerusalem Council based their conclusions on the Word of God and formulated their doctrines from that point.

Notice verses 15-18: "And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written: 'After these things I will return, and

The librarian went over to the noisy little boy and said, "Please be quiet. The people near you can't even read."

"They can't?" the boy said in wonder. "Then what are they doing here?"—LEO AIKMAN, *Atlanta Constitution*. e

**Keep Counting** – If a person started counting at the time of birth and continued to count without stopping until he or she reached the age of 65, that person still would not have counted to one billion.