

Evangelism in the Book of Acts

Acts 15-16 – Internal Conflict

Points to Consider

1. Internal conflict will happen and must be solved
2. Internal conflict should not hinder our outreach
3. Philippian prospects

Internal conflict will happen and must be solved

Acts 15:1-2,5 Paul and Barnabas had a conflict that is described as “no small dissension and dispute” with _____ Pharisees.

The dissension was over what it takes to be _____. The Pharisee believers were saying that to be saved, everyone must keep the law of Moses.

Acts 15:6-11 After there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and reminded everyone of how God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit like he had the Jews.

God made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles. _____ is saved through the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:12 Paul and Barnabas told the _____ crowd about the many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

Acts 15:13-17 James refers to Amos 9:11-12 to confirm that what Peter said was _____ part of God’s plan.

It is important to note that even _____ message was expected to be consistent with the message of the Old Testament.

Acts 15:19-22 James made a _____ call on how to deal with this issue that was pleasing to the apostles, the elders, and the whole church.

He didn’t make a judgment call on if the Gentiles had to keep the law of Moses to be saved or not.

They sent a _____, by the hands of leading men among the brethren, to the Gentiles telling them to stay away from things polluted by idols, sexual immorality, from things that were strangled, and from blood.

Acts 15:31-35 When the letter was read, the Gentile Christians _____ over its encouragement.

Judas, Silas, Paul, and Barnabas spent time exhorting and strengthening the _____ with many words.

Another internal dispute

Acts 15:36-41 Paul suggested to Barnabas that they should return to the cities where they established churches on their first missionary journey to build up those young Christians.

Barnabas was _____ to take Mark, while Paul _____ that Mark, who left the first journey early, should be left behind.

This contention became so _____ that Paul and Barnabas parted ways.

Internal conflict should not hinder our outreach

Acts 15:39-41 After they decided to part ways, Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus while Paul and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia _____ the churches.

Acts 16:1-5 Paul and Silas met _____, a young man who the brethren spoke well of, at Lystra.

Paul and Timothy develop a deep, life long relationship.

They delivered to the churches the decrees to keep as determined by the apostles and elders.

As the churches were strengthened in the faith, they increased in _____.

Acts 16:9-10 Paul and Silas were called to Macedonia where they came to the city of _____.

Philippian Prospects

Acts 16:13-15 Paul and his traveling companions go to the river where prayer was _____ made and began to speak to the women who met there.

Lydia _____ the things spoken by Paul and was baptized. She then begged them to stay with her.

Acts 16:25-34 Paul and Silas were engaging in spiritual activities, praying and singing, with the prisoners listening to them.

Paul and Silas' good example _____ the door to the jailer's heart.

Practical Application

Sometimes internal conflicts will be severe, and people will discuss things passionately. When the disagreements are of a scriptural nature we should turn to scripture collectively and study the issues. Once the issue was studied out by the whole church, they agreed on a course of action.

Some sharp conflicts happen between people. Sometimes those disputes become so tense that separation is the best course of action. We don't have any evidence that God considered either Paul or Barnabas wrong for doing what they did. However, the overwhelming evidence in Scripture is for us to try and work out our differences. The study on our theme of unity last year clearly pointed that out. Also, there are times where in disputes, one or both parties are wrong. In those situations, the sin needs to be dealt with according to the Biblical pattern.

Our focus should remain on strengthening Christians and teaching the lost during times of peace and times of internal or personal conflict.

Prospects can be found in many places. Paul found Lydia by the river praying. He also shared the gospel with his jailer.