

DECISION THEN DUTY

Acts 15:19-29

The Decision = Believing Gentiles did NOT have to keep the Jewish Law (including male circumcision) in order to become born-again Christians.

The Duties = Believing Gentiles were to KEEP THE PEACE with believing Jews BY abstaining from any freedoms which were ABHORRENT TO JEWS.

How to avoid being an annoyance or a disturbance to brothers & sisters in the Lord:

1. We get our DOCTRINE_____.
2. We live out the FACT that all Bible DOCTRINE impacts all Christian_____.
3. We must_____CHURCH PROBLEMS with_____not THE FLESH.
4. We must NOT use our LIBERTY in CHRIST to knowingly offend more_____ believers who don't yet have LIBERTY in certain matters. For the good of other believers we don't exercise our liberties on certain "_____" matters! (See Romans chapters 14 & 15)
5. We must work to arrive at the place of_____in the matters UNDER DEBATE.
6. We must never_____the truth of the GOSPEL, but in certain OTHER "gray" areas we should_____LOVING COMPROMISE for the sake of the church's testimony & unity!
7. We must NOT insist on having our own way on matters of PERSONAL OPINION and NOT_____.
8. We must LEARN to GIVE & TAKE in the PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS of LIFE so that persons can LIVE & WORK_____ in LOVE & HARMONY.
9. We must carry out our COLLECTIVE CHRISTIAN DUTIES so that we_____PRESENT a UNITED WITNESS to the LOST.
10. We must avoid KNOWINGLY being a STUMBLING BLOCK by NEEDLESSLY OFFENDING other brothers and sisters in the Lord and_____. (Romans 14:13-21)
11. We must bring CLARITY & CHARITY in DEBATED faith-matters KNOWING THAT the_____KILLS but the SPIRIT GIVES LIFE! (2 Cor.3:6 and Matt.11:28-30)

12. We must understand that CHURCH PROBLEMS and DIFFERENCES are _____ for GROWTH just as much as TEMPTATIONS for DISSENSION and DIVISION.
13. We must value WORKING TOGETHER, taking TIME to _____, to LOVE and to LEARN.
14. We must know that UNITY is not _____, because UNITY is BASED on LOVE and not LAW.
There is a great need in the church for DIVERSITY in _____ (Eph 4:1-17) because such DIVERSITY in UNITY is the ONLY way the Body can _____ and DO ITS WORK in the WORLD!
15. We must give ourselves a REGULAR _____ of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8A!

Discussion Questions

1. What would you call a Christian who knows doctrine but refuses to do its duty?
(Put another way: A Christian who has belief but no change in behaviour?)

2. Can you think of an encouraging example of when there was LOVING UNITY among believers?

3. Can you think of an encouraging time when Church problems & differences caused positive spiritual growth in persons?
