

HOW WE SHARE Fallout – Part 3

ON TV: The foundation of faith for the first century Christ Followers was an **event**: the **resurrection of Jesus**.

ON TV: Keeping the Law of Moses is a **condition for salvation and inclusion**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “1 Certain people came down from Judea to **Antioch** and were teaching the **believers**: ‘Unless you are **circumcised** according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be **saved**. 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp **dispute** and **debate** with them. So, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to **Jerusalem** to see the **apostles** and **elders** about this question.” Acts 15:1-2

ON TV: **Why** would they go back to Jerusalem to sort this out, and **why** would they need to meet with this group of apostles?

ON TV: Is the **Gentile’s relationship** to the Law of Moses or is it to Jesus and the New Covenant he inaugurated?

ON TV: But 20 years after the resurrection, the church is trying to figure out: **Is this for everybody for all times?** Do we keep it **all** or just **part** of it? Do the Gentiles have to **live and believe like Jews** to become Christians?

ON TV/OUTLINE: “5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the **Pharisees** stood up and said, ‘The Gentiles must be **circumcised** and **required** to keep the **Law of Moses**.’ 7 After **much** discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ‘Brothers, you know that sometime ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from **my lips** the message of the gospel and **believe**. 8 God, who knows the **heart**, showed that he **accepted** them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, **just as he did to us**. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the **necks** of Gentiles a **yoke** that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the **grace** of our Lord Jesus that **we** are saved, **just as they are**.’” Acts 15:5, 7-8, 10-11

ON TV/OUTLINE: “19 It is my **judgement**, therefore, that we should not make it **difficult** for the Gentiles who are **turning** to God. 20 Instead we should **write** to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. 21 **For the Law of Moses has been preached** in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.” Acts 15:19-21

ON TV: Why would James suggest they send this particular message to Gentile Christians?

ON TV: Because those commands had nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses but had everything to do with keeping the peace in the church.

ON TV: It was all about **peacekeeping**, not law keeping.

ON TV: Yours are better and yours are far less complicated...but they are **far more demanding**.

ON TV: This new covenant stands on its own two, nail-scarred, **resurrected** feet.

ON TV: Those 66 books did not start Christianity. The **resurrection of Jesus created and launched Christianity**.

ON TV: Did Jesus **rise from the dead**?

ON TV: “...we should not make it difficult for those **Gentiles who are turning to God**.” Acts 15:19b