

The Book of Acts - Chapter 15
LOCKED DOWN IN CHAOS: HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
Dr. Larry Lamb – October 20, 2019

Acts 15.1-3 While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.³ The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

- 1) Whenever people get together, contention is **PROBABLE** .
- 2) The doctrinal truth of grace is worth **DEFENDING** .

- ⇒ Acts 15.6-11 Peter gave a speech.
- ⇒ Acts 15.12 Barnabas and Paul gave a speech.
- ⇒ Acts 15.13-21 James gave a speech.

Here’s a word to all leaders of any size organization, team, community group, or classroom: *It’s crucial to have your values clearly spelled out and lived out, so that (not if, but when) someone overtly or subtly tries to undermine you and your culture you will take swift actions of correction.*

Here’s why: The longer chaos is tolerated, it will do two things with the people you lead:

- 1) **UNDERMINE** your leadership.
- 2) It will create deeper levels of conflict and **GOSSIP** .

Philippians 4.2,3 Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement.³ And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

- Two Christian women.
- Two Christian women locked in a disagreement.
- Two Christian women locked in a disagreement who worked hard in evangelism.
- Two Christian women locked in a disagreement who worked hard in evangelism and who have their names written in the Book of life.

Acts 15.38-41 But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. ³⁹ Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. ⁴⁰ Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord's gracious care. ⁴¹ Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there.

"Paul and Barnabas parted in anger and both in sorrow."

A.T. ROBERTSON

CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION

- 1) Conflict – It's **UNAVOIDABLE** .
- 2) Reconciliation is the process of **HEALING** .

*"Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change.
And when we are right, make us easy to live with."*

PETER MARSHALL

Colossians 3.13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

2 Timothy 4.11 ... Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry.

SALVATION PRAYER

Jesus, I find myself being drawn to You. I want You to be my Savior and Lord. I confess that my sin has separated me from You. Forgive me and cleanse me from sin. I ask You to live through me each day as I humble myself before You. Amen.