

Why does someone *believe*
an error?

**I was wondering why
the *believers mentioned
in Acts 15:5* were
so devoted to this idea?**

So, why were they so devoted to this error?

Remember it looks like these Acts 15'ers did some travelling to spread their beliefs.

I mean they made it hundreds of miles into turkey to Galatia teaching this. So they were pretty committed to it.

I want to offer three reasons.

The third one *imho* is the best reason.

Reason 1:

Tradition, they hated to see people (especially Jews) de-emphasizing what they'd been promoting their whole lives.

Reason 2:

Fear, *it could be* that they feared the ridicule of their peers in the various Jewish groups.

The fear of being ridiculed actually causes many people to do stuff they normally wouldn't do.

Reason 3:

They feared that by *not* emphasizing the Mosaic Law, that *gentile believers were delaying the establishment of the kingdom age.*

**What was the cost of not being
circumcised?**

See Genesis 17:1-14 *and* Exodus 12:48.

Well, that's a big deal...

What was the cost of not following the law?

See Deuteronomy 29:18-21

Also, a big deal.

But now things are a little different.

Now...

The messianic promises included the *re-establishment of the Davidic Kingdom*.

See Isaiah 9.1-7

11:1-16

32:1-5

But the problem is...

After the resurrection they don't see any hints of the setting up of the foretold kingdom...

Even the Apostles were concerned about that!
See Acts 1:6-8

So, by the time you reach Acts 15, we're about twenty years into the Christian era and *there isn't even a hint of the kingdom coming in...*

**Acts 15:2 says there was *no small
dissension and debate over what they
asserted in v1.***

Why did they debate this stuff? Didn't the early Church know *everything*?

So what?

1. Deeply rooted beliefs *are* not infallible.
(Don't be surprised if in your Christian life that you better understand and the Bible, and must *change your mind*.)

So what?

2. If a viewpoint *changes the appropriation of the gospel's benefit (salvation), it is a must be rejected with extreme prejudice.*