

Ekklesia (part 5): The Tendency to Drift

Pastor Rick – 5/22/22

Essence of the Gospel = Christ died, was buried, arose and appeared!

Back in Jerusalem, controversy was brewing!

How good does a person have to be in order to be a part of the church? Who is the church for?

In the church, grace and truth will collide!

John 1:14

The church, if we are not careful, will drift towards what is familiar, comfortable and manageable.

Acts 15:1

Acts 15:2-3

Acts 15:4

Acts 15:5

The Pharisees are the group of people that put Jesus to death!

613 OT laws!

Leviticus 19:19

And if we're not careful, we all settle into our version of Christianity, don't we?

Acts 15:6-9

Acts 15:10

Acts 15:11

God can purify your heart before you purify your life!

What would your brother have to do to convince you he was God?

Acts 15:19

“Anything that makes it difficult for people who are turning to God we should remove it if we can.”

Acts 15:30-31

- 1) We must avoid the drift towards “insiders” and away from “outsiders.”

- 2) We must avoid the drift towards “law” and away from “grace.”
- 3) We must avoid the drift towards “preserving” rather than “advancing.”

Be bold!

Err on the side of grace!

Remain openhanded!

PRAYER for this series

God, would you please stretch out your hand and do something through me in my community, among my unbelieving friends, among my anti-church friends, among my friends that have been burned by religion and have every reason in the world . . . God, would you be willing to stretch out your hand and do something unusual? Not for my benefit, not in the church, but for the benefit of those who don't believe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider yourself to be someone who embraces change or resists change? Why?
2. Take turns reading Acts 15 together. Share your insights and observations.
3. In recalling last week's message, in what way were you amazed by the Gospel this week? Did you have an opportunity to share about your faith or the Good News with someone?
4. Has there ever been a time that what you thought you knew about God was actually wrong or wasn't the entire story about God? How did you respond?
5. How would you characterize how the apostles and elders handled the question about whether or not converts needed to be circumcised? What can this teach the church today?
6. In Acts 15:11, Peter sets forth to the apostles and elders what is most important. What is it and why is this important to understand?
7. Do you classify and categorize people in your mind? How and why? Do you believe this is good or bad?
8. How will you and/or your group step up and serve as part of Go Serve Week?