

CLARITY FOR THE CULTURE

Pastor Chad Gilligan | March 20, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION TO A NEW SEASON

A. *New Seasons Emerge From Fresh Encounters With The Holy Spirit*

*Heavenly Father,
In This New Season
May Your Holy Spirit
Bring To Me
Clarity For The Culture*

B. *The Holy Spirit can bring you clarity when the issues are cloudy.*

II. SIX QUESTIONS TO FIND CULTURAL CLARITY

1. *Am I Living in Grace?*

Acts 15:23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

Acts 15:24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

- We should not be legalistic.

Acts 15:19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

2. *Am I Living in Truth?*

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- We should not compromise.

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

3. What Does God's Word Say?

Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

- Look first for guidance from God's Word.

4. What Do Wise People Say?

Acts 15:25-27 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

- Find good counsel from wise people.

Proverbs 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

5. What Effect Will This Have on My Relationships?

Acts 15:28-29 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

A. Is this idolatrous?

- Anything that becomes more important in my life than God is an idol.

B. Is this offensive?

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- Offensive living hurts the church and grieves the Holy Spirit.

C. Is this immoral?

- God's plan is for sexual activity to be between one man and one woman in marriage. Anything outside of that the Bible defines as sin.
- Immoral living impacts your relationship with God, others, and self.
- God's greatest priority is that you be in right relationship with Him.

6. What is the Holy Spirit Saying?

Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 15:30-31 So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.