



## SERMON NOTES

### **WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS!**

Acts 15:12-34

Pastor Carl Toti - July 14-15, 2018

***Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.***

***–Josh McDowell***

***Acts 15:12-15 (NLT) Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13 When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. 15 And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:***

***Acts 15:16-19 (NLT) ‘Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it, 17 so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD, including the Gentiles— all those I have called to be mine. The LORD has spoken— 18 he who made these things known so long ago.’ 19 “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.***

***How do we make it difficult for “people turning to God” in our church?***

***IN THE ESSENTIALS WE HAVE UNTY.  
IN THE NON-ESSENTIALS WE HAVE LIBERTY.  
BUT IN ALL THINGS WE HAVE CHARITY.***

***Acts 15:19b-21 (NLT) ...we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. 21 For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”***

#### **WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS**

***1) Grace oriented living requires us to not insist on non-Biblical standards.***

***2) Certain matters should be left to individual conscience.***

***3) As grace-filled Christ followers we voluntarily limit our freedom in Christ for the benefit of others.***

***1 Corinthians 8:13 (NLT) So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don’t want to cause another believer to stumble.***

***1 Corinthians 9:19-21 (NLT) Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. 20 When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. 21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.***

**Acts 15:22-29 (NLT)** Then the apostles and elders together with the whole church in Jerusalem chose delegates, and they sent them to Antioch of Syria with Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders—Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas. 23 This is the letter they took with them: “This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings! 24 “We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them! 25 So we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question. 28 “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements:

29 You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell.”

### **STAYING CLEAN FROM...**

1) Vile \_\_\_\_\_

**Image-worship or divine honor bestowed upon creation or any created person, place or thing.**

2) Consumption of \_\_\_\_\_

**From animals who have been strangled or killed without draining the blood. Life was in the blood.**

3) Sexual \_\_\_\_\_

**Of all types both heterosexual and homosexual sin.**

**Acts 15:30-34 (NLT)** The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter. 31 And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message. 32 Then Judas and Silas, both being prophets, spoke at length to the believers, encouraging and strengthening their faith. 33 They stayed for a while, and then the believers sent them back to the church in Jerusalem with a blessing of peace. 34 But Silas decided to stay there.

### **Answers:**

1. **Idols**
2. **Blood**
3. **Sin**