



Acts 15:13-35

The Jerusalem Council (Part 2)

Speaker: Jeff Thompson

The LORD of Armies says this: "Peoples will yet come, the residents of many cities; the residents of one city will go to another, saying: Let's go at once to plead for the LORD's favor and to seek the LORD of Armies. I am also going. Many peoples and strong nations will come to seek the LORD of Armies in Jerusalem and to plead for the LORD's favor." The LORD of Armies says this: "In those days, ten men from nations of every language will grab the robe of a Jewish man tightly, urging: Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." - Zechariah 8:20-23

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. - Ephesians 3:2-12

...which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?
- Luke 14:28

...brothers and sisters, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received instruction from us on how you should live and please God—as you are doing—do this even more. For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don't know God. This means one must not transgress against and take advantage of a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you. For God has not called us to impurity but to live in holiness. Consequently, anyone who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Paul addresses the issue of sexual immorality further in 1 Corinthians 5-6.

V.20: Converts to Christianity must _____
renounce all other gods and belief systems, and
turn from _____.

So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread. Consider the people of Israel. Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? What am I saying then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons. - 1 Corinthians 10:14, 16-21

...the life of every creature is its blood... - Leviticus 17:14

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved. - 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

4 PRACTICES FOR SOLVING THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES:

- Respect ("Brothers"; when biblical sincerity can be assumed).
- Alignment with observable reality.
- Agreement with the Scriptures.
- Agreement among elders.

V.31: Sincere converts to Christianity _____
over the righteousness they have gained, rather
than _____ the sin they have lost.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH...

- Circumstances
- The testimony of believers
- _____
- The Gifts of the Spirit
- Elders and deacons

...he himself (Jesus) gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.
- Ephesians 4:11-13

- A plurality of wise counsel

Without guidance, a people will fall, but with many counselors there is deliverance. - Proverbs 11:14

...victory comes with many counselors. - Proverbs 24:6

- Prayer

...you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9