

Gatekeeping Christianity

Open with Prayer Requests

Discussion Questions

Read Acts 15:1–11

- What was the main issue being debated in Acts 15?
- How might you describe the difference between *religious tradition* and *saving faith* in your own words?
- Peter reminded the believers that “God knows the heart.” Why is this such an important truth to remember when questions about salvation arise?

Read Galatians 2:15–16

- Why do you think it’s hard for some Christians to fully accept that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone?
- Have you ever felt pressure—from others or from yourself—to “prove” your salvation by doing certain things? How did that affect your relationship with God?

Read John 6:28–29

- What does Jesus mean when He says that the “work of God” is to believe in the One He has sent?
- How does this challenge the way our culture often thinks about earning or deserving love and acceptance?

Read Ephesians 2:8–10

- How would you explain the difference between *legalism* and *discipleship* in practical terms?
- Why is it important to engage in spiritual disciplines (prayer, worship, Scripture, service) even though they don’t contribute to our salvation?
- How have these practices benefited your faith personally?

Personal Reflection

- Can you think of a time when someone acted like a “gatekeeper” to Christianity in your life—implying that you were not truly saved unless you did certain things? How did that experience impact you?
- How can our church guard against this kind of gatekeeping attitude?
- What does it mean for you, personally, to rest in the finished work of Christ?
- In what ways can we help new believers understand the difference between *salvation by grace* and *growth through discipline*?

Closing Prayer