

The Book of Acts
THE FIRST CHURCH CONFLICT
Pastor Mike Anderson

Context:

- We don't know specifically who these men were (the party of the Pharisees) who went down from Jerusalem to Antioch, but the bottom line was they thought a person had to become circumcised before they could become a Christian.
- Paul and Barnabas were sent to the church headquarters in Jerusalem to meet with the elders.
- Peter speaks up at a critical time.
- James, Jesus' half-brother, makes the final decision

1. The unity of the church is the G_____!

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Ephesians 4:3-6

The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered. And to the true unity of the Church, it is enough to agree concerning the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Nor is it necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies, instituted by men, should be everywhere alike. - Augsburg Confession, 1530

2. Even when we disagree, we L_____ and R_____ one another.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. - Ephesians 4:2

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. - Ephesians 4:29

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- Colossians 4:6

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.
- Saint Augustine

3. Though we may have differing points of view, we speak with O_____ V_____.

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead, we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.
- Acts 15:19-20

4. We can give up our R_____ for the sake of the Gospel.

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. - 1 Corinthians 9:20-22

What Does This Mean for My Life?

- Where do you need to protect the unity of the church?
- Do you seek first to understand rather than being understood?
 - Where do you need to give up your rights to reach someone for Christ?