



## COMMUNITY OF FAITH

### EVERY WONDER WHY? | WEEK 3

#### Alcohol, Tattoos, and Politics?

#### Acts 15

<sup>1</sup> Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” <sup>2</sup> And after Paul and Barnabas had a heated argument and debate with them, the brothers determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. <sup>7</sup> After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; <sup>9</sup> and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Since this is the case, why are you putting God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our forefathers nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

<sup>12</sup> All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. <sup>13</sup> After they stopped speaking, James responded, saying, “Brothers, listen to me.”

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, it is my judgment that we do not cause trouble for those from the Gentiles who are turning to God,

<sup>20</sup> but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols, from acts of sexual immorality, from what has been strangled, and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For from ancient generations Moses has those who preach him in every city, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

<sup>28</sup> For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from acts of sexual immorality; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”

<sup>30</sup> So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and after gathering the congregation together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup> When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

**Acts 15v1-31(NASB)**

**Question: Why is there conflict around alcohol, tattoos, and politics in church?**

- 1. We trade freedom found in grace for prison in the law.**
- 2. We trade passion for the mission for submission to tradition.**
- 3. We trade internal transformation for external impression.**

**Community Counseling Center**

832.447.1422

counseling@cof.church

[www.communitycounseling.com](http://www.communitycounseling.com)