

*Recap of 1/30/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 15:1-35*

*1. The decision of the Jerusalem Council concerning the issue of circumcision and keeping the Law included three key points:*

*-Reaffirmed commitment to salvation by grace through faith without any addition. The Law of Moses need not be kept, not could it be a ground of salvation. This is liberty.*

*-The need to live a life of purity/holiness as a response to salvation. This is purity.*

*-The need to promote fellowship and avoid offending a weaker brother or sister in Christ by the exercise of our liberty in Christ. This is charity.*

*-Liberty, purity, charity (Charles Erdman)*

*2. "The Law cannot purify the sinner's heart (Gal. 2:21), impart the gift of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:20), or give eternal life (Gal. 3:21). What the Law could not do, God did through His own Son (Rom. 8:1-4).*

*Those who have trusted Christ have the righteousness of God's Law in their hearts and, through the Spirit, obey His will. They are not motivated by fear, but by love." (Wiersbe)*

*3. Any addition to salvation by grace in any day, whether it be the addition of circumcision or the keeping of the law or anything else, is a problem similar to and equally as serious as the one which faced the Jerusalem council." (Ryrie)*

*4. The process by which they resolved this doctrinal dispute:*

*-They met face-to-face, vv. 1-6*

*-They defined the issue.*

*-They had a full and open discussion from all parties, vv. 5-12*

*-The leader (James) summarized the testimony, vv. 13-14*

*-They looked at what the Bible had to say about the issue, vv. 15-18*

*-They reached a conclusion and charted a course of action, vv. 19-21*

*-They were careful that there was no breakdown in communication (used letter & personal communication) vs. 22*

*-The result was unity, harmony, & peace.*