

Living Water Part 30
Acts 15:1-21

Title Of The Message: “Confusing Religion With Relationship”

The Key Word: Seek

The Thought: Refusing to let go of religion, will bring confusion into the church, instead of the law of love.

The Breakdown:

Verses 1-6 The Confusion Of Religion...

Verses 7-14 Grace Over The Yoke Of Religion...

Verses 15-21 God’s Open Door...

Verses 1-6 The Confusion Of Religion...

Acts 15:1

And certain [men] came down...

Acts 15:2

Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas...

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NKJV) Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

They determined...

Acts 15:3-6

So, being sent on their way by the church...

But some of the sect of the Pharisees...

"It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command [them] to keep the law of Moses."

Romans 14:13 (NKJV) Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Verses 7-14 Grace Over The Yoke Of Religion...

Acts 15:7-9

And when there had been much dispute...

Luke 19:10 (NKJV) for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Made no distinction...

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Acts 15:10-11

Now therefore...

Galatians 3:2-3 (NKJV) 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of

faith?—3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Putting a yoke on the neck...

“Peter, the Jew, would normally have said it the other way around. He would have said, ‘We believe that they can be saved by grace through faith, just like us.’ That is, they can be like us.” -Boice Yet Peter turned it around and noted that all are saved by grace alone through faith alone, Gentiles and Jews. -Boice

Acts 15:12-13

Then all the multitude kept silent...

Acts 15:14

Simon has declared how...

“Ethnos” = “Heathen” speaks of a multitude or company

Literally “a multitude of people of the same nature or genus”

“People” = “the people at large”

Literally “a people of the same race and language”

Verses 15-21 God’s Open Door...

Acts 15:15-18

And with this the words...

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV) 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living

stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV) 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Colossians 3:11 there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Acts 15:19-21

Therefore I judge...

Application:

- 1. When we come to Jesus we must turn away from what we know of religion and let the Spirit lead us through the teaching of the Word.**
- 2. The grace of God is what saves people, not the works of the law.**
- 3. The message of the gospel is repent and believe, not repent, believe and keep the law.**