

This Changes Everything: Part 5

Tradition Transformed: Acts 15

When we relate to God through rules:

1. We find _____
2. We focus on _____
3. We _____

Nobody wants to be part of that, and nobody should, because that isn't Christianity!

In order to tear down obstacles for people to come to faith, we can employ 2 filters:

Filter #1: What is the _____ thing to do?

Filter #2: If **everyone** comes by _____, **no one** should be kept out because of _____.

Bottom line:

Life Group Questions

This week, before you go to your Life Group:

Commit to reading through the Book of Acts over the next month. Last week we read Acts 16-20. This week read Acts 21-28. What are some of the things you learned by reading this section? Make some notes of questions, observations and key themes!

Life Group Discussion Questions:

Read Acts 15:1-11. Summarize in your own words, the point that Peter has made. Why is this an important point to make in this discussion?

Continue to read verses 12-21. How does James' speech build on what Peter had said? How does this challenge the way the Pharisees' perspective on gentiles?

Why do you think James includes the concessions that he does (verse 20-21)? What principle lies behind these instruction?

James doesn't require gentiles to follow the law. Read the follow verses and talk about how Jesus and the New Testament writers interpret the law: Matthew 22:37-40, 1 John 3:23, James 2:8, Galatians 5:6. How do you think this should inform the way we look at the 'rules' and how we are to be obedient to God? What are some of the practical differences that emerge when someone is following the rule vs. people who are pursuing love?

Do you think there are ways that the Christians Church makes it difficult for 'outsiders' to turn to God? What are some ways that we can make sure we do not place unnecessary burdens on those who are not yet Christians?