

OUTLINE  
August 10, 2008

*Living for a Mission*

“Conflict In the Church and Between Church Leaders”

Acts 15

- I. Crossroad number one: Conflict in the church.
- A. This is the second conflict the church has faced that is major.
  - B. This conflict had to do with God’s grace. (vs. 1-6)
  - C. On issues of theological concerns, church leadership handles it.

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17)*

- D. How the church is to handle conflict.
- 1. Step One: Locate a plurality of authority.
  - 2. Step Two: Listen to God’s heart on the matter.
    - a. It’s not about who’s right, but what is right.

Peter points out God’s heart:

- God wants everyone to be saved. (v. 7)
- Gentiles are coming to Christ and in God’s eyes there is no plurality. (v. 8)
- God makes no distinction between Jew & Gentile. (v. 9)

- 3. Step Three: The Bible must be obeyed. (vs. 13-21)
- 4. Step Four: Put the decision in writing. (vs. 22-35)

- II. Crossroad number two: Conflict between church leaders. (vs. 36-41)
- A. Who was right...Paul or Barnabas? “I don’t know.”
  - B. Was this God’s will? It appears to be so.