

**“Acts – Enlarging the Kingdom (10):
The Jerusalem Council – Law vs Grace” (Acts 15:1-35)**

**Jesus Prayed for the Unity of Believers:
Unity – not based upon Consensus, but on Truth (John 17:17)**

Truth – Basis of the Content of Faith, has Boundaries

Is Man’s Salvation based on Law, Law Plus Grace, or Grace Alone?

I. The Issue that Prompted the Jerusalem Council (15:1-2)

A. The Jewish Legalist Group Insisting... Condition of Salvation: by Following the Law of Moses and the Rite of Circumcision

B. Paul and Barnabas Engaging in Sharp Dispute with this teaching

Potential Church Split, and Confusion in the Doctrine of Salvation

II. The Jerusalem Council (15:3-35)

A. Position of the Pharisaic Party: Circumcision Plus Observing the Mosaic Law (v 5)

**One’s Belief about the teaching of Justification
Influences his Belief on the teaching of Sanctification**

B. Peter’s Testimony (vv 6-11): The Case of Cornelius (cf Acts 10), and the Unbearable Yoke of Observing the Mosaic Law

One is Saved and Sanctified only through Faith and by “the Grace of Lord Jesus”

C. James’ Summary (vv 15-18): Affirmed Peter’s Testimony – Supported by the Scripture

Practical Decision (vv 20-21):

Maintain High Moral Standards, and not Offend other Believers

III. Lessons for Today

**The Jerusalem Council affirmed: Salvation is based Not on Law,
or Law Plus Grace, but by Grace Alone**

Lesson 1: Man-made Rules and the Law of God cannot provide the Power for men to live out its Demands (Gal 3:10-11)

Faith is an act of Depending on God’s Grace, not by Self-effort

Lesson 2: God’s Grace is the Basis of one’s Salvation, and his Sanctification, as well as his Glorification (Gal 3:3, 25)

Lesson 3: In Non-essentials, Learn to Not Offend Convictions of Fellow Believers

Make Decisions that aim to Promote the United Witness of the Church...

**Let others see how God’s Grace works in the Church,
that they may Believe in the Power of the Gospel of Grace to Save!**