

God's Blueprint for the Church: Part 2
Clearing Up a Controversy
Acts 15:1-35 (page 768)

Sunday, June 19, 2011

Frank Mascaro

To clear up a controversy we need to:

• **Define the Issue** (15:1-5)

- *Doctrinal:* Does Jesus + something = salvation or Jesus + nothing = salvation
- *Practical:* How could Jew and Gentile interact together?

• **Review the past** (15:6-11)

- God decides who should hear (v 7; 10:9-23)
- The proof – the Holy Spirit (v 8; 8:15-17; 10:44-47)
- God has broken down the distinctions in Christ (v 9, 11; Eph 2:11-22)
- No one could keep the law (v 10; Rom 3:20)

• **Consider the present** (15:12)

Miracles proved that:

- God was at work in the Gentiles
- Their message was confirmed by God

• **Evaluate the evidence** (15:13-18)

It is evident that:

- God is reaching other people (v 14; 8:14-17; 10:44-47)
- The prophets agree with this evidence (v 15-18; Amos 9:11-12; Matt 4:12-16)

• **Make the decision and practice it** (15:19-35)

- *Doctrinally:* Faith in Christ alone is all that is necessary for inclusion in the church (Rom 3:21-24; 28-31)
- *Practically:* Don't live in ways that hinder fellowship with other believers (1 Cor 8-9; Rom 14:14, 19-21)

Personally....

Which is easier to determine— *doctrinal* truths or *practical* truths?
Which is easier to practice? Explain.

Which of the steps in Acts 15 stood out to you as important? Why?

Which of the steps discussed is the hardest for you to do? Why?

How important is unity in the church? In marriage? In the home?
At work? Explain.
