

# Grace Alone Together

Acts 15:1-35

## Muscle Groups

When do we need them? What can go wrong?

How might this happen in the \_\_\_\_\_?

## The Early Church

Jewish people: “\_\_\_\_\_”      Gentile people (not Jews) “\_\_\_\_\_”  
\_\_\_\_\_ church (Judea)      \_\_\_\_\_ church (Roman empire)  
Apostles (especially \_\_\_\_\_)      \_\_\_\_\_ & Barnabas

## Acts 15:1-35

1-5: Some Jewish Christians required Gentiles to become \_\_\_\_\_  
in order to be accepted as \_\_\_\_\_

Circumcision and the law of \_\_\_\_\_

Many rules about acceptable \_\_\_\_\_, special \_\_\_\_\_, being “clean”

They questioned \_\_\_\_\_, and created separation

So the \_\_\_\_\_ church sent Paul and Barnabas and others  
to the \_\_\_\_\_ church

6-11: Apostles & elders met: Peter defended “\_\_\_\_\_ alone”

Much \_\_\_\_\_: an important & challenging issue

Peter represented the \_\_\_\_\_ (first leaders)

Was sent by God to welcome a \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian

Emphasis

“\_\_\_\_\_ made a choice”: sent by God, gift of Spirit

“among \_\_\_\_\_”: the Jews, in Palestine

Salvation: by grace of Jesus; same for \_\_\_\_\_!

God witnessed to Gentiles’ genuine \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ

12: Barnabas & Paul told of \_\_\_\_\_ work among Gentiles

“\_\_\_\_\_” contrasts with “much discussion”

Emphasis: what “\_\_\_\_\_ had done” among Gentiles

Not...

13-21: James proposed a solution: “grace alone \_\_\_\_\_”

James: Jesus’ half brother (not the apostle James)

Represented the \_\_\_\_\_ (emerging authorities)

Emphasized \_\_\_\_\_ initiative and prophecy

“\_\_\_\_\_ intervened to choose a people for His name”

By \_\_\_\_\_, not by following the Law

\_\_\_\_\_ : Gentiles added to Jews in God’s family

Gentiles should adjust to enable \_\_\_\_\_

22-29: Broad agreement: Send word to the \_\_\_\_\_

People were sent to \_\_\_\_\_ to the written message

2 parts of the message

Everyone is saved by grace alone: from/to “\_\_\_\_\_”

Called to change behavior to promote \_\_\_\_\_

They were convinced of the guidance of the \_\_\_\_\_

30-35: Letter brought \_\_\_\_\_, encouragement, and growth

Relieved by the affirmation of genuine \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

No need to change \_\_\_\_\_ to be full Christians

They welcomed the call to pursue \_\_\_\_\_

## The Big Idea:

**We are saved by God’s \_\_\_\_\_ alone  
to show \_\_\_\_\_ to each other as one body**

## Application

Require nothing more than \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ for salvation [Grace \_\_\_\_\_]

Ephesians 2:8-9

Apply ‘grace alone’ to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_

Do not \_\_\_\_\_ add requirements

Do not \_\_\_\_\_ add requirements

In grace, do the good work of \_\_\_\_\_ [\_\_\_\_\_]

Focus on the pure \_\_\_\_\_ and practice kind \_\_\_\_\_

We don’t have to give up our \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; Ephesians 4:2-3; Luke 6:27-28

Unity comes from...

Deep conviction of salvation by \_\_\_\_\_ alone

Showing grace to each other in the power of the \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflection

- What might be examples of how we implicitly add requirements for salvation? That is, when might we have unstated requirements before we will accept someone (or ourselves) as a genuine Christian?
- When have you seen or heard about people making adjustments in order to pursue fellowship and unity in the church?
- Jesus commands us to “love our enemies” and to “bless those who curse us.” How might that apply to relationships in the church?
- Read Ephesians 4:2-3. What will this look like for you today?