



How do we answer
**QUESTIONS &
DISAGREEMENTS?**

How do we answer
**QUESTIONS &
DISAGREEMENTS?**
WITH OPINIONS?

How do we answer
**QUESTIONS &
DISAGREEMENTS?**
WITH SQUABBLES?

... Acts 15 ...

THE MEETING

Finding God's Will

“But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:1
English Standard Version



And after Paul and Barnabas had no small **dissension and debate** with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Acts 15:2
English Standard Version



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Acts 15:2
English Standard Version



1

Consider God's will

ALONE



Peter

- "God made a choice" (15:7)
- "God...bore witness" (15:8)
- God made no distinction (15:9)



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Paul & Barnabas

- God's approval shown in signs (15:12)
- Purpose of signs: confirm the message with authority (Mk 16:20, cf. 1 Cor 2:4-5)



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James

- Based his argument on "the words of the prophets" (15:15)
- Prophecy has authority from God (2 Pet 1:21)

THE “THEREFORE” FORMULA

Drawing Necessary Conclusions OUT of Scripture

1

“IT IS WRITTEN”

2

“THEREFORE”

3

“MY JUDGMENT”

THE OPINION FORMULA

Putting Preconceived Conclusions INTO Scripture

① “IT IS WRITTEN”

② “THEREFORE”

③ “MY JUDGMENT”

2

Consider God's will

TOGETHER



Gather & Consider

.....

- They "gathered together to consider this matter" (15:6).
- Seek God's will in the community of faith (cf. Ac 2:41, 17:11, 18:26).



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Speak & Listen

- They spoke as to brothers (15:7,13)
- They quietly listened (15:12, 13)
- God-given leaders directed (15:6-13,22)



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Unite & Support

- They came "to one accord" (15:25)
- United action: "it seemed good to...the whole church" (15:22).

3

Consider God's will

BIBLICALLY



... Acts 15 ...

SHOW & TELL

Biblical Authority



Peter

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- made a necessary inference from what God said and did
- using common sense, draw the only logical conclusion (cf. Mk 12:26-27, Mt 22:41-45)



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James

- showed how a direct statement of Scripture authorized them to bring the gospel to the nations (15:13-19)



Peter

- appealed to the authority of what **GOD IMPLIES** to us, leaving us to come to a necessary inference



Paul & Barnabas

- appealed to the authority of what **GOD SHOWS** us through approved apostolic examples



James

- appealed to the authority of what **GOD TELLS** us by a command or direct statement in Scripture



LAW

IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement

**“IS THERE A
STATUTE THAT
APPLIES TO THIS
CASE?”**

IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement

"ARE THERE
PRECEDENTS FROM
OTHER CASES THAT
SHOULD APPLY?"

"IS THERE A
STATUTE THAT
APPLIES TO THIS
CASE?"

IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement

"ARE THERE
CONCLUSIONS THAT
MAY LOGICALLY BE
DRAWN FROM THE
EVIDENCE?"

"ARE THERE
PRECEDENTS FROM
OTHER CASES THAT
SHOULD APPLY?"

"IS THERE A
STATUTE THAT
APPLIES TO THIS
CASE?"

IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement



WORSHIP

IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement

**“LET A PERSON EXAMINE
HIMSELF...AND SO EAT
OF THE BREAD AND
DRINK OF THE CUP.”**

1 COR 11:28



IMPLY

necessary inference

SHOW

approved example

TELL

command or
direct statement

“ON THE FIRST DAY OF
THE WEEK, WHEN WE
WERE GATHERED
TOGETHER TO BREAK
BREAD...” ACTS 20:7



“LET A PERSON EXAMINE
HIMSELF...AND SO EAT
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IMPLY

necessary inference

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direct statement

**“REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY,
TO KEEP IT HOLY.”
EXODUS 20:8**



**“ON THE FIRST DAY OF
THE WEEK, WHEN WE
WERE GATHERED
TOGETHER TO BREAK
BREAD...” ACTS 20:7**



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“CENI”

“C E N I”

Command,

Example,

Necessary Inference

“C E N I”

Command,

Example,

Necessary Inference

All Require Humble, Discerning Care (2 Tim. 2:15)

“C E N I”

Command,



Example,

Necessary Inference

CONTEXT: What are we meant to take from this?

“C E N I”

Command,

Example,



Necessary Inference

Does the example reveal God's will for the church?

“C E N I”

Command,

Example,

Necessary Inference



Is the conclusion logical, honest & faithful to the text?

ACT WITH AUTHORITY

by considering together what God

1

TELLS

Commands
& Statements

2

SHOWS

Approved
Examples

3

IMPLIES

Common Sense
Conclusions

ACT WITH AUTHORITY

by considering together what God

1

READ & OBEY

2

NOTICE & IMITATE

3

REASON & APPLY

“Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

Acts 15:24-29

English Standard Version



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DISAGREEMENTS?**

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AUTHORITY

How do we answer
**QUESTIONS &
DISAGREEMENTS?**
**SEEK GOD'S WILL TOGETHER
& FOLLOW THE LORD!**

“And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.”

Acts 15:31
English Standard Version



“But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Acts 15:11
English Standard Version



