

Acts 15:1-11

1. Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”
2. And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.
3. Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren.
4. When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.
5. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”
6. The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.
7. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.
8. “And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;
9. and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.
10. “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?
11. “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

Galatians 2:11-21

11. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.
12. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.
13. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.
14. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?
15. “We *are* Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;
16. nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.
17. “But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!
18. “For if I rebuild what I have *once* destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.
19. “For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.
20. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
21. “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”