
THE ISSUE OF GENTILES IN ACTS 15

Two Contentions:

1. – “Gentiles must be circumcised” (v.1)
2. – “They must keep the entire Law of Moses” (v.5)

Peter’s Statement (v.6-11):

- God made no distinction between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles]. (v.9)
- Why test God by placing an unbearable yoke on the [Gentile] disciples? (v.10)

Barnabas & Paul confirm Peter’s testimony (v.12)

James’ Conclusion (v.13-21):

- Peter’s testimony is confirmed by the Scriptures (v.14-18):
 - Amos 9:11-12 (Isaiah 16:45)
- Therefore, let’s not trouble those who are turning to God among the Gentiles. (i.e. Let’s not force our religion upon them.)...
- ...but only that they should do four necessary things:
 - Abstain from meat sacrificed to idols
 - Abstain from fornication
 - Abstain from meat that is strangled (*treif*)
 - Abstain from blood
- The Gentiles can learn Torah in the synagogues on Sabbath

The Letter is prepared (v.22-29)