

What's the Message?



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Commencement

Scenario

- You're working with a ministry
- The ministry is effective
- Planting churches
- The new believers are growing in faith
- Questions arise
- They come to the ministry for answers
- A meeting is held
- Everyone is in agreement
- Send a message back to the new churches

**What's the
Message?**

**What Would YOU
Write?**

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What's the Message?

Theology?

- State of the dead
- Investigative judgment
- End-time events

What's the Message?

Christian Living?

- Health message
- Stewardship
- Christian witness
- Guarding your faith

What's the Message?

Timely?

- Current events
 - Philosophy
 - Politics
 - Challenges of the local church
-

What's the Message?

Encouragement?

- A prayer
- Good job
- Keep going

**What's the
Message?**

**What Would YOU
Write?**

Unknowns

- What's the controversy?
- What was discussed in the meeting?
- What was preached to them?

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Controversy

Acts 15:1-5

¹Some men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom prescribed by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ²After Paul and Barnabas had engaged them in serious argument and debate, Paul and Barnabas and some others were appointed to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this issue. ³When they had been sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and they brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters.

⁴When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, the apostles, and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

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Exodus 12:48

If an alien resides among you and wants to observe the LORD's Passover, every male in his household must be circumcised, and then he may participate; he will become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat it.

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Galatians 2:11-14

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. ¹²For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, “If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Acts 10:9-16

⁹On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰But he became hungry and wanted to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹²and on it were all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the sky. ¹³A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, kill and eat!” ¹⁴But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.” ¹⁵Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.” ¹⁶This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

Acts 10:17-20

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might mean, behold, the **men who had been sent by Cornelius** had asked directions to Simon's house, and they **appeared at the gate**; ¹⁸and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "**Behold, three men are looking for you.**" ²⁰**But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."**

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Galatians 2:3-5

³But **not** even Titus, who was with me, was **compelled to be circumcised**, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This matter arose because some **false brothers** had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us. ⁵But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that **the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.**

Unknowns



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- What was discussed in the meeting?
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Consensus

Acts 15:6-11

⁶The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you are aware that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the gospel message and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he also did to us. ⁹He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now then, why are you testing God by putting a yoke on the disciples’ necks that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they are.”

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Acts 15:12

The whole assembly became silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

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Acts 15:13-21

¹³After they stopped speaking, James responded, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has reported how God first intervened to take from the Gentiles a people for his name. ¹⁵And the words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written: ¹⁶After these things I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. I will rebuild its ruins and set it up again, ¹⁷so that the rest of humanity may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles who are called by my name— declares the Lord who makes these things ¹⁸known from long ago.

¹⁹Therefore, in my judgment, we should not cause difficulties for those among the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰but instead we should write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹For since ancient times, Moses has had those who proclaim him in every city, and every Sabbath day he is read aloud in the synagogues.”

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Communication

Acts 15:22-31

²²Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided to select men who were among them and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas, called Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men among the brothers. ²³They wrote: “From the apostles and the elders, your brothers, To the brothers and sisters among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.

²⁴Since we have heard that some without our authorization went out from us and troubled you with their words and unsettled your hearts, ²⁵we have unanimously decided to select men and send them to you along with our dearly loved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who will personally report the same things by word of mouth.

Acts 15:22-31

²⁸For it was the Holy Spirit's decision—and ours—not to place further burdens on you beyond these requirements: ²⁹that you abstain from food offered to idols, from blood, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. You will do well if you keep yourselves from these things. Farewell.”

³⁰So they were sent off and went down to Antioch, and after gathering the assembly, they delivered the letter. ³¹When they read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

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John 17:20-23

²⁰“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. ²¹May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. ²²I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. ²³I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

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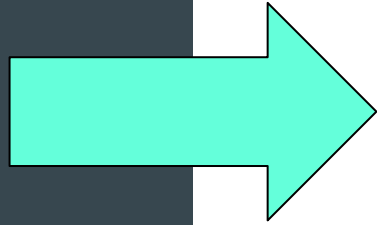
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Conclusion

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**What's the
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**What's the
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