

## ***“Gospel Liberty and Unity Preserved!”***

**Galatians 2:1-10**

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*An ancient conference of the Apostles – and what it means for us today.*

### **1. Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem?**

The “Jerusalem Council” of Acts 15

*“Then after fourteen years I went up again  
to Jerusalem with Barnabas,  
taking Titus along with me.”*

#### **(1) Because of a Revelation**

*“I went up because of a revelation and set before them...  
the gospel that I proclaimed among the Gentiles...”*

God had made it clear to him that he must go!

God had made it clear to him that it was vital to confer with the other Apostles.

#### **(2) Because he wanted to protect the fruit he had seen in his ministry.**

- “...in order to make sure I was not running  
or had not run in vain.”*
- Paul was *not* questioning the gospel he preached
  - He was *concerned* about the false teachers sowing confusion and harming the church.

#### **(3) Because it was vital that there be a public declaration whereby the Gospel and its implications be clarified.**

### **2. Why did Paul purposely take Titus along?**

- In Titus there was provided a concrete “test case”

- One who had trusted Christ, was a Gentile, and was uncircumcised!
- If a Gentile comes to faith in Christ, is he *fully accepted of God*, or must he do more?
- Is he a brother *of equal status* as those of Judaism who had trusted Christ?

### **3. What was the “Verdict” – the Outcome?**

#### **(1) Titus was not forced to be circumcised. He was accepted!**

*“But even Titus, who was with me,  
was not forced to be circumcised,  
though he was a Greek.”*

#### **(2) The other Apostles had nothing to add to Paul’s ministry.**

*“those who seemed to be influential  
added nothing to me.”*

#### **(3) They fully endorsed Paul’s ministry.**

*“they gave the right hand of fellowship  
to Barnabas and me...”*

- They saw clearly that Paul had been entrusted with the gospel
- They perceived the grace of God at work in Paul, that he had been called, uniquely equipped, gifted, and empowered to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

### **4. What were (and are) the Implications?**

#### **(1) Gospel liberty was preserved!**

- The gospel makes way for cultural freedom
- The gospel gives emotional freedom

#### **(2) Unity was preserved!**

- When we understand the gospel, it means accepting anyone and everyone who is in Christ Jesus, regardless of cultural and ethnic background.
- Culturally, the saved Gentile *looked very different* from the saved Jew!  
But they were both one in Christ Jesus.
- When we understand the gospel, it brings a greater sensitivity to the needs of my brothers and sisters in Christ who may be far away from me and may be very different from me!
  - cf. v. 10 “remember the poor” = the poor Jewish Christians in Judea

### **Further Application**