

I. THE STORY: SHARP CONFLICT RESOLVED & GOSPEL ADVANCES EVEN MORE (ACTS 15:1-35)

INTRODUCTION: COMMISSION (1:8) & EMPOWERMENT (c.2; see Lk.3:22; 4:18f)

A. LOCAL PROGRESS (c.1-7; 8,9; 10-12; 13,14)

B. INTERNATIONAL CRISIS (c.15; see v.1,5; Ex.12:44,48; see Gal.2)

C. GLOBAL PROGRESS (c.16-28)

II. THE LESSONS: UNANIMOUS PEACE (ACTS 15:1-35)

A. CONFLICT WILL ARISE (1; see 20:28; e.g., Paul's letters!)

B. ERROR MUST BE ADDRESSED (1,2; note: vigorously; e.g., Paul's letters!)

C. GENERAL MATTERS MUST BE ADDRESSED GENERALLY (2 /Gal.2:2f; Dt1:17; 17:8f; Mt18:15f)

D. SHEPHERDS MUST PROTECT THE SHEEP (2,4,6,22,23; 16:4; see 14:23; 20:28; Gal.2:4,5; 5:1f; 1Pt.1:1; 5:1f; Jn.10:12; Ezk.33:1f; 34:2f)

E. THE WHOLE CHURCH MUST BE INVOLVED (2,3 & 4,4; 22; see 13:1,2; 1Cor.12; Eph.4:10f)

F. WITNESSES MUST BE HEARD (7a; i.e., 7b-11; 12,3f; sum: what God did; see Dt.19:15)

G. LUSTS MUST BE CRUCIFIED (7, 2f; see Gal.2:1f,11f; 5:24,20; see 2Tm.2:22f)

H. JUDGMENT MUST BE RENDERED (13f,6; see Num.15:32f; Dt.17:8f; 1Kngs.3:16f; Mt.5:25; 18:17f; 1Cor.6:5; 1Th.5:12f; 1Tm.5:17; Heb.13:17,24)

I. THE ONLY RULE OF JUDGMENT MUST BE APPLIED (13f,6; 28; see Dt.18:20f; 13:1f; see Heb.5:12-14; 1Tm.4:6; 5:17; 2Tm.3:16f; Mt.7:1f; see *WCF*,c.1,para.10)

J. PERSONAL PREFERENCES, PRACTICES & PARTIES MUST BE SUBORDINATED (13f; 1,24; Gal.2:9,12f; Jms.3:13-18f; see Gal. 5:1,13f; 1Cor.9:22,23; 10:31-33)

K. JUDGMENT MUST SECURE UNANIMITY (22,25,28; see 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 8:6; see Rom.12:16f; Eph.4:3; Phil.2:2f; Col.3:13f; see Heb.13:17 & 2Tm.2:24f; 1Pt.5:1f; Jms.3:17f)

L. JUDGMENT MUST BE COMMUNICATED: CLEARLY, TIMELY (20-35; 16:4; see Paul's letters)

M. JUDGMENT MUST BE EXECUTED; PUT INTO EFFECT (c.15-28;c.16-28 /Mt.18:17; 1Cor.5:3-5,13)

III. SEEK PEACE & PURSUE IT BY TRUTH & RIGHTEOUSNESS (c.15 /Mt.5:9,25; Rom15:13; Gal.5:22; Eph4:3; Phil.2:2; 4:2; 1Tm3:3; 2Tm2:22f; Hb7:2; 12:14; Jms3:18; 1Pt3:11(Ps34:14) ||Acts15:36f,39/Col.4:10)

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)