

## **MOVING IN A SOLUTION – ORIENTED DIRECTION** *(Principles in Acts 15 from the Early Church)*

### Acts 15

- vs.1 - A problem arose
- vs.2 - disagreement led to division
  - it was “irreconcilable” by them
  - they admitted that outside counsel was needed
  - they sent “representatives” to the spiritual leadership (elders)
  - they expected the question (issue) to be resolved
- vs.3 – they didn’t lose sight of their ministries (callings)
- vs.4 – they reported everything (data gathering process)
- vs.5 – they listened & got the facts
  - they identified the problem(s)
- vs.6 – the leaders, alone, set up a time to meet together, immediately
  - their agenda was focused toward this 1 problem (one at a time)
  - they moved in a solution-oriented direction
- vs. 7 – they communicated, talked, listened, discussed, debated
  - one gathered & reviewed the “pre-history” relating to the matter
- vs.7-8 – they stuck with the issue & relevant information
  - they used God’s word to get things into perspective
- vs.7-9 – they used Scriptural principles/Biblical insights foundational to the issue
- vs.10 – they raised powerful questions regarding the application of God’s word
- vs.11 – they established unity in what they all believed
  - they reached certain basic conclusions & recommendations
- vs.12 – notice this was not a “congregational meeting” but that the whole multitude kept silent! During this process they were still being fed & encouraged with what God was doing through evangelism & discipleship
- vs.13 – one “in charge” (over the meeting) brought together conclusively the matter with firmness yet flexibility!
- vs. 13-18 – further scriptural confirmation was given consistently reinforcing the direction they all needed to go.
- vs.19-21 – practical solutions were given
  - a strategy was devised
  - they reached conclusive unified solutions to the problem
- vs.22 – the plan of action was communicated to the whole church
  - the whole church submitted to the elders decision (unity)
  - they chose those who would be responsible to carryout the plan of action
  - they utilized other church leaders to communicate the final resolution
- vs.23 – they put it in writing! To clarify & confirm all the necessary communications they drafted a “policy” based on Scriptural principles & their practical ramifications to the problem.
- vs.23-29 – they explained the problem, the process, & the solution
- vs.28 – they had obviously sought the Holy Spirit’s guidance through the whole process!
- vs.23,30 – they communicated the solution to all involved “as public as the problem – that’s how public the solution needs to be made”
- vs.30 – they immediately followed through implementing the complete resolution
  - they called a special meeting to “declare” (not debate) the solution
- vs.31 – everyone rejoiced in unity & was encouraged
- vs.32-35 – they even had a special seminar of exhortation & strengthening since no doubt, these matters had “taken their toll” & Satan had used the problems to cause hurt & division. So now was a time to recover some of the casualties of spiritual warfare & bring healing & strengthening to previously polarized relationships.
- vs.33 – they responded back favorably to the elders
- vs.34-35 – they kept on teaching & preaching the Word!
- vs.36-41 – another problem arose...”but that’s another story” for you to analyze