



Storyline of the Book of Acts

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2-5
- Acts 6:1-7
- Acts 8:4-25
- Acts 8:26-40
- Acts 10
- Acts 13-14
- Acts 15

THE GREAT DEBATE

What was the church going to be built upon,
religious traditions or grace ?

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS IN THE GREAT DEBATE

1. Do I have to be religious to be a Christian? (Acts 15:1-5)

Genesis 17:4; John 1:16-17; Romans 3:28; 11:6; 1 Cor. 9:21

“Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’” Acts 15:1

ANSWER

2. What makes someone a Christian ? Acts 15:6-18

“⁶The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, **Peter stood up and said to them.**” Acts 15:6-7

ANSWER: Being a Christian is defined by ...

- God's grace which is available for all.
Acts 15:7; 2 Peter 3:9
- The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 15:8-9; Eph. 1:13-14
- faith and not works / not religion / not rituals.
Acts 15:9-11; Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 3:2-3
- Believing in the person and work of Jesus.
Acts 15:11; Luke 19:10; Rom. 3:23-24; Eph. 1:7

3. Why the decision to limit freedoms ?

Acts 15:19-35; 21:25; Romans 14:1-4

- Abstain from food sacrificed to idols
- Abstain from drinking or eating the blood
- Abstain from good killed by strangulation
- **Abstain from sexual immorality** (1 Cor. 6:15-20; 1 Thes. 4:3)

THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE

Acts 15:30-31