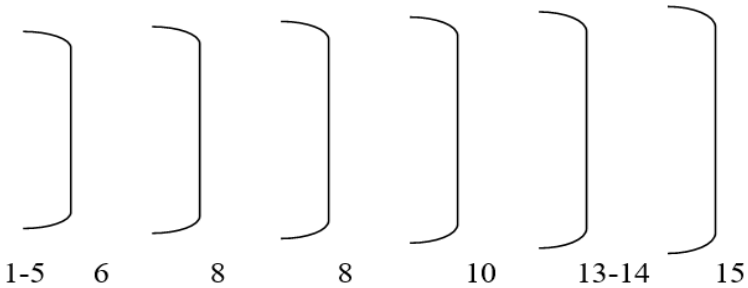




## The Background to Acts 15

"<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."<sup>9</sup> Acts 1:8 (NLT)



**Q:** Was the church going to be built upon religious \_\_\_\_\_ or upon God's \_\_\_\_\_?

## Five Characteristics of a Unified Church Family

Emphasizes common \_\_\_\_\_.

“Some men came down...and began teaching...unless you are circumcised..., you cannot be saved.” Acts 15:1 (Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 1:10)

I can grow the unity of my church by...

**2. Embraces the same \_\_\_\_\_.**

“When they arrived at Jerusalem, ... they reported all that God had done with them.” (15:4; Ephesians 4:1)

**I can grow the unity of my church by...**

**3. Endorses the \_\_\_\_\_ of our church.**

“Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles.” (15:19; Hebrews 13:17)

**I can grow the unity of my church by...**

**4. Exemplifies godly \_\_\_\_\_.**

“All the people kept silent, and they were listening...” (15:12)  
(Ephesians 4:29; James 3:1-12)

**I can grow the unity of my church by...**

**5. Enjoys the \_\_\_\_\_ of all our members.**

“When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.”  
(15:31)

**I can grow the unity of my church by...**

**A Picture of Church Unity (Acts 2:41-47)**