



grow

In What Unites Us

Background to Acts 15

Hebrew People

1-5

6

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13-14

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Remember Jesus Words in Acts 1:8

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Hebrews and
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Tradition or Grace?

Remember Jesus Words in Acts 1:8

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Question ?

Was the church going
to be built upon
religious traditions
or upon
God's unifying grace?

Five Characteristics
of a Unified
Church Family

1.

**Emphasizes common
core beliefs.**

“Some men came down...
and began teaching...
unless you are circumcised...,
you cannot be saved.”

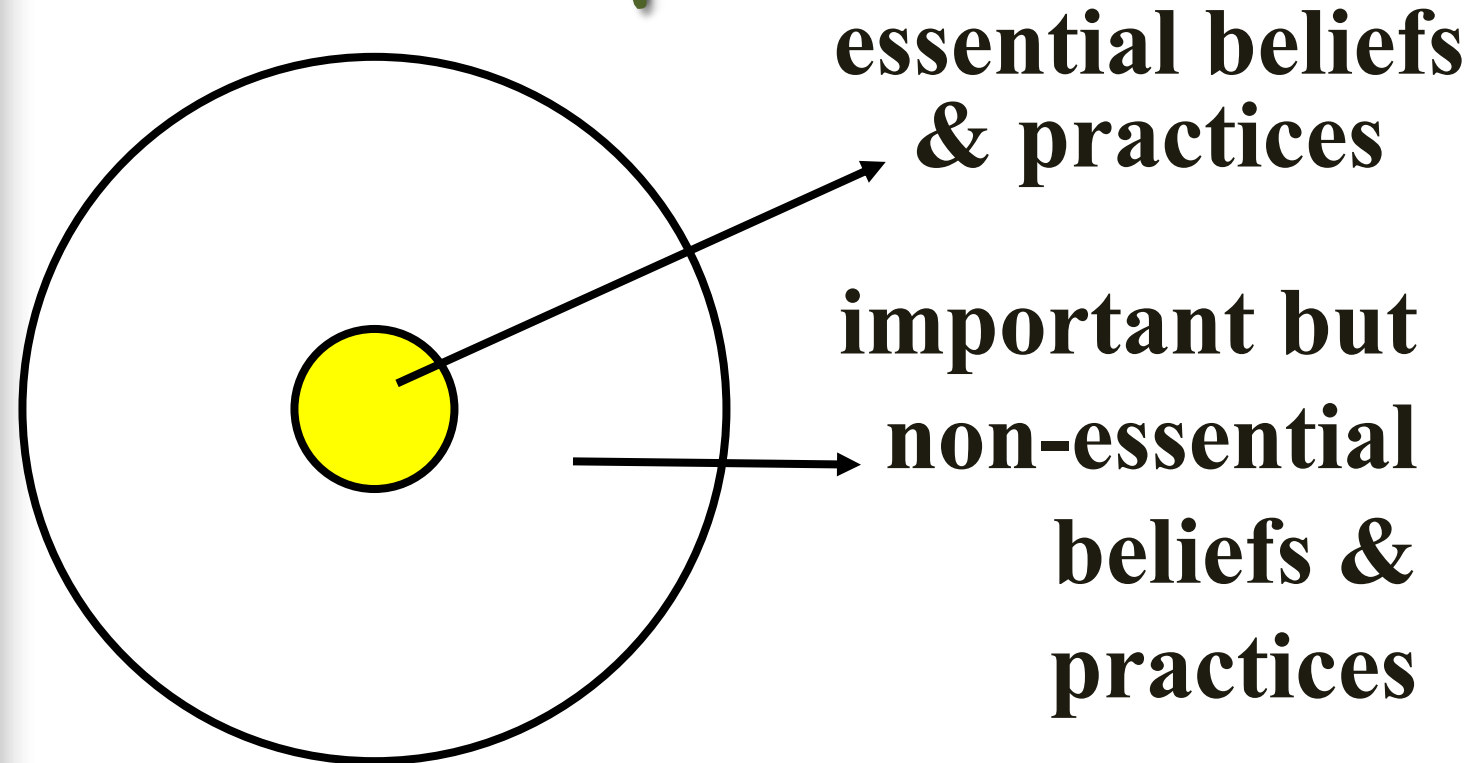
Acts 15:1 (NASB)

1.

“So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Romans 14:19
(NASB)

Emphasizes common
core beliefs.



Non-essential beliefs & practices

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

"In essentials unity,
in non-essentials liberty,
in all things charity."

Rupertus Meldenius, German Theologian

2.

Embrace the same mission and vision.

Five Characteristics
of a Unified
Church Family

“When they arrived at Jerusalem,...they reported all that God had done with them.”

Acts 15:4 (NASB)

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

pursuing God's purposes
for me and my church

Our Vision

?

Five Characteristics
of a Unified
Church Family

3. **Endorses the leadership
of our church.**

“Therefore it is my judgment
that we do not trouble those
who are turning to God from
among the Gentiles.”

Acts 15:19 (NASB)

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

Listen, give input
and follow

Heart of a Good & Godly Leader

“Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.”

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

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4.

**Exemplifies godly
behavior.**

Five Characteristics
of a Unified
Church Family

“All the people kept
silent, and they were
listening...”

Acts 15:12 (NASB)

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

Communicate clearly,
refuse to gossip

5.

**Enjoys the celebrations
with other members.**

Five Characteristics
of a Unified
Church Family

“When they had read it,
they rejoiced because
of its encouragement.”

Acts 15:31 (NASB)

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

Participating

A Picture of Church Unity

“⁴¹So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.... ⁴³Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe...⁴⁴And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common...⁴⁶Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple...⁴⁷And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:41-47 (NASB)

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