

Lessons & Observations from Acts 15

1. Brethren need reports on the Lord's work in other places. Workers need to give them and brethren need to receive them.
2. Brethren sometimes dispute over issues that ought not to be.
3. Brethren sometimes dispute over mere personal opinions rather than a "Thus said the Lord."
4. Ignoring problems among brethren will not make the problems go away.
5. Problems in one part of the brotherhood can affect brethren in other parts of the brotherhood.
6. There are right ways and wrong ways to go about settling disputes among the brethren.
7. When religious questions are raised, religious answers, and not men's opinions should be sought.
8. A Christian should not be afraid to ask a faithful fellow Christian to help him learn the truth in matters he does not understand.
9. A matter is never settled correctly until it is settled by God's Word.
10. While men may be different, trust is important for all.
11. Trusting faithful brethren is important.
12. When a brother, even a prominent, well-known brother, does that which is wrong, he must be corrected for his own sake as well as for the sake of others who may be influenced by his wrong.
13. Sometimes brethren disagree in matters of judgment and expediency. In such a case, mutual resolve must be sought quickly so as not to allow the matter to grow into an issue that could involve others and hurt the church.
14. When brethren have difficulty working together, then perhaps they should work separately. However, they both should continue to work for the Lord.
15. Some decisions need to be written out so as not to be miscommunicated verbally.
16. No Christian should knowingly offend or be a stumbling block to others.
17. The church should only send forth faithful workers to the mission fields.
18. Weaker congregations need the strength, encouragement and support of the stronger congregations.
19. Every problem has a right solution. Brethren must be willing to seek it and accept it.

20. Brethren should not be legalistic and bind where the Lord has not bound.
21. Brethren should not be liberal and loose where the Lord has bound.
22. There are certain things required for becoming a Christian, but circumcision is not one of them.
23. Problems must be confronted and all sides must be give a fair hearing.
24. We must be sure that any requirements for obedience that are set up are God's, not people's.
25. It is helpful when Christians learn to be careful not only in what they say, but also in how they say it.
26. We may be correct in our content, but we can lose our audience by our tone or voice, our attitude, or our choice of words used.
27. Partnership can be a significant part of an effective ministry.
28. When angry, do not sin. **Ephesians 4:26** – ""Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
29. Failures in the past may be brought to light in the future.
30. Failures can be overcome.
31. Brethren who differ can, and should, be reconciled.
32. God can bring good out of difficulties.