

REFINING THE MISSION— Acts 15:1–35
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After the Lord began to bring multiple Gentile believers into the church, a question arose among the Jewish Christians:

Isn't the call to embrace Christ for salvation also a call to submit to the traditions of the Mosaic Law? This major issue allowed the first-century church to *refine* their mission, articulating for themselves as well as for us today not only the believer's relationship to the Law, but also the pristine message of the true gospel.

1. The Dispute: What has the Lord called his witnesses to proclaim? (Acts 15:1–5)

2. The Evidence: What has the Lord been doing lately? (Acts 15:6–12)
 - a. The Evidence of the Holy Spirit (8–9)

 - b. The Evidence of the Apostles' Works (12)

3. The Argument: What has God been doing all along? (Acts 15:13–17)

4. The Verdict: What does the Spirit require for the church? (Acts 15:18–32)
 - a. A Verdict Regarding the Initial Dispute (19, 24, 28)

 - b. A Verdict Regarding Jewish-Gentile Relations (20–21, 29, 31)