

ACTS 15 – A Pattern of Decision Making

- 1. The problem associated with new Gentile believers that needed broader perspective. (Acts 15:1-2) “Unless you are circumcised you cannot be saved.”**
- 2. Some believers were happy with Gentile converts. (v3) “Much to everyone’s joy that the Gentiles were being converted.”**
- 3. Others were not happy.(v5) “Gentile converts must be circumcised.”**

A meeting was convened to make a decision about this:

- i) One item on the agenda (v6): Gentile converts and the Mosaic law.**
- ii) Much discussion. (v7)**
- iii) Peter’s testimonial (v7-11): God chose me to preach to the Gentiles.**
- iv) Paul & Barnabas’ testimonial (v12): Miraculous signs and wonders among the Gentiles.**
- v) James speaks and brings a Scripture relevant to the agenda item (v13 -21): The prophets predicted the conversion of the Gentiles. (Amos 9:11-12)**
- vi) Decision (by the Apostles & elders and whole church)(v22-29):**
 - To send a letter with Paul & Barnabas along with Judas & Silas.**
 - The letter outlined their decision, to be verbalized by Judas & Silas (v23-29), with this note: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us (v28).**

Key points:

- Much discussion.**
- Testimonials by key people.**
- One major spokesperson.**
- Relevant Scripture.**
- Decision by the Apostles & Elders (and the whole church).**
- It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.**