

# PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH

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## INTRODUCTION

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**TEXT:** *“And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and questioning with them, the brethren appointed that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.”* (Acts 15:2).

A. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

1. Had spread ..Judea, Samaria, Paul’s first journey.
2. Paul and Barnabas had just returned from that journey.

B. ALL OF THIS HAD NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PROBLEMS.

1. Problem of persecution.
2. Confrontation with the Jews.
3. Men like Elymas.

C. ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS HAD COME FROM WITHOUT!

D. THIS PROBLEM HAD COME FROM “WITHIN”. vs. 1,2.

1. Serious problem because it dealt with the condition of salvation.
  2. Source of Teaching....Question of authority.
  3. Was affecting the fellowship in the church.
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## THE PROBLEM

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A. Was not an objection to Gentiles becoming Christians. ...

1. But of requiring them to become “Jews” “circumcision” before they could be saved.
2. Bind on Gentiles the “law of Moses”. V. 1

B. Little surprised to meet a Pharisee in the church.

1. As a sect they had been leaders in opposing Christ.
  2. Maybe not surprising to see them on the wrong side of the question.
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## SOURCE

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A. Certain men came down from Judea. v. 1

1. This would have given them a certain amount of respect.
2. Indicate...falsely...that this teaching was from the apostles and leaders of the church in Jerusalem.
3. This to give weight to their argument.

B. Source was their OWN reasoning.

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### LESSON ON AUTHORITY

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#### A. RESPECT FOR SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURE.

1. "We gave no (such) commandment"
  - a. Was not from the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Was not from the apostles.
  - c. Was not from scripture.
2. *"Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other."* (I Cor. 4:6).

#### B. HOW MANY THINGS ARE TAUGHT TODAY...And When you turn to God's Word,...there is *"no such commandment"*.

1. Faith only...
  2. Sprinkling, etc. Infants, Infant damnation.
  3. Once saved always saved. (Could make a long list of things from man)
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### HOLY SPIRIT'S ANSWER

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#### A. GOD'S ANSWER, BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND APOSTLES.

1. End of dispute. When followed.
2. Solved the problem when they listened to God.

#### B. THE ANSWER:

1. *"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that ye abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication"* (v. 28,29.)
2. These necessary things...as related to the problem.
3. Circumcised after the custom of Moses...**not binding...BUT**

#### C. WHY THESE FOUR? (Things sacrificed to idols, Blood; Things Strangled; Fornication)

#### D. POSSIBLE ANSWER...**ONE**:

1. They all relate to idolatry.
2. A very real problem in the Gentile world.
3. Briefly explain each and relationship to idolatry.
4. Connection of blood and life. From before Abraham.

#### E. POSSIBLE ANSWER ... **TWO**:

1. It would seem logical that these were brought into question along with circumcision...
2. Else why would these four be caught up and all the rest of Old Testament

teaching ignored?

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### **CONCLUSION**

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- A. We need to become a Christian by obeying God's commandments.
    - 1. Can't add to or subtract from and still please God.
    - 2. Don't go beyond that which is written (I Cor. 4:6) Don't stop short.
    - 3. Obey today.
  
  - B. A final thought!
    - 1. Would this not have been the ideal time to start more than one church.
    - 2. You go your way I'll go mine...all going to the same place anyway.
    - 3. Doesn't make any difference what you believe, just as long as you are sincere and honest.
    - 4. How many people thank God, for all of the different "faiths".
  - C. HOW MUCH WE NEED TO RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF GOD AND HIS WORD.
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