

## **Grace Goes to Court: The Trial**

Acts 15:1-12

**Do you want life to be pain-free?**

**Sincere people collide** (1-2a)

Circumcised Salvation (1)

Issue: Does the Mosaic Law place conditions on salvation and the Christian life?

A necessary but uncomfortable part of eldering

Not IF Gentiles could be saved, but **HOW**

Collision of Law and grace

Not the first

Paul's later summary: Galatians 2:21

If righteousness comes through Law, we don't need **grace**.

Law and grace are mutually **exclusive**.

Great dissension and debate (2)

Conflict is never easy or **enjoyable**.

**Straightforward communication is essential** (2b-12)

Hiding is cowardly & ineffectual.

While waiting for problems to go away they usually get **worse**.

Addressing conflict requires intention and effort. It also opens new **opportunities**. (3 - 5)

*On the way* (3)

*Declared God's works* (4)

strong objection still resulted (5)

**Conflict can be beneficial**. (6-12)

Peter summarizes the grace argument:

Historical argument (v 7-9)

Impossibility argument (10)

Universal grace argument (11)

Breakthrough requires **listening** (12)

Conflict differs if about **preference** rather than truth.

**Grace still goes to court!**

**Take it Home**