



How to Disagree (Acts 15)

VINTAGE US, PART 2

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor
September 9 & 11, 2011

VINTAGE US — The experience of the good news of Jesus *changing lives* and *spreading unstoppably* until it reached the “ends of the earth” ... a.k.a. *our* story, *YOUR* story!

*In every apple there is an orchard.
The orchard is in every apple.*

ACTS 15 ... BACK DOWN TO EARTH

- Apparently even in a dynamic, world-changing, spirit-infused, Jesus-centered community, WITH Bible-writing apostles running around ... *conflict* is *normal* ... no *fun*, but *normal*!
- We will disagree — not a matter of IF, but *HOW*!

HOW TO...

1. HOLD ONTO *BIG REALITIES*!

⁹ “...and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.” ¹² All the people kept silent...

Acts 15:9–12

¹⁹ “Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, ²⁰ but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood... ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials.”
Acts 15:19–20, 28

2. ENGAGE IN PRACTICES THAT CLEAR
SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT.

⁴ When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” ⁶ The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up... ³¹ When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

Acts 15:4–7, 31

- Some tension should be *leveraged not solved*. (I’m indebted to Andy Stanley for this point.)
- Hash it out, turn it over, *hear the various voices*. (Note: this is not “*democracy in action*.”)
- JUST SAY IT: *Everyone has baggage*.
- GRACE is our *line in the sand*!
- End in *embrace*.
- Expect *imperfection* (see v. 36–41) — each disagreement feels unique!

STEP INTO THE GREAT EQUALIZER: *GRACE*!



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VINTAGE US — The experience of the good news of Jesus

_____ and _____
until it reached the “ends of the earth” ... a.k.a. _____ story,
_____ story!

*In every apple there is an orchard.
The orchard is in every apple.*

ACTS 15 ... BACK DOWN TO EARTH

- Apparently even in a dynamic, world-changing, spirit-infused, Jesus-centered community, WITH Bible-writing apostles running around ... _____ is _____ ... no _____, but _____!
- We will disagree — not a matter of IF, but _____!

HOW TO...

1. HOLD ONTO _____!

9 “...and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.” 12 All the people kept silent...

Acts 15:9–12

*19 “Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, 20 but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood... 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials.”
Acts 15:19–20, 28*

2. ENGAGE IN PRACTICES THAT CLEAR _____.

4 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” 6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up... 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

Acts 15:4–7, 31

- Some tension should be _____.
(I’m indebted to Andy Stanley for this point.)
- Hash it out, turn it over, _____.
(Note: This is not “_____.”)
- JUST SAY IT: _____.
- GRACE is our _____!
- End in _____.
- Expect _____ (see v. 36–41) — each disagreement feels unique!

STEP INTO THE GREAT EQUALIZER: _____!