

Week 17: Clarifying The Gospel

Every religion teaches that you must do something to get to God, but the gospel declares that God has already come to us through Jesus. In Acts 15, the early church faced a defining moment when some insisted salvation required Jesus plus the law. The apostles made it clear: we are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. When we add to grace, we lose the gospel, but when we accept it, we find freedom.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Acts 15:1-19**. Why was adding circumcision (or the law) such a serious issue? What would have been lost if the early church had embraced a "Jesus AND" gospel?

2. Where are you most tempted to live out a "Jesus AND" mindset in your own life (performance, approval, behavior, background, etc.)? Why do you think that is?

3. Why do you think grace is so hard for us to fully accept? What does it look like practically to live from grace instead of trying to earn it?

4. What are some ways Christians or churches unintentionally make it harder for people to find and follow Jesus? How can we remove those barriers without compromising the truth?

5. If we truly believed "we don't work for salvation, we work from it," how would that change the way you view yourself? The way you treat others? The way you share your faith?

6. Peter gets to the heart of the gospel in **vs. 11**. How does this truth shape your identity and assurance before God—and what changes when you truly believe there's nothing left to prove?