

“The Answer to Cancel Culture”
Acts 15:6-9
Come, Holy Spirit: The Book of Acts Sermon Series
Dr. Mark Foster
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How many people have you written-off in the last five months? _____
Who are those people who don't understand the way we do things around here? _____
If they would just _____, we could get along and the world would be a better place.

In Acts 1-13, Jesus has ascended. The Holy Spirit has come. The Jerusalem church has expanded to Samaria, the west coast to Joppa and Caesarea, and north to Damascus and Antioch. The continual stream of _____ into the church produced a problem which had to be solved.

The Problem

Since Jews are the chosen people of God, must Gentiles before they come Christians, first become Jews? Or can Gentiles be received into the church in their own right?
Jews could have no _____ with Gentiles: not as guests, not in business, not in any way. So how could they become brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ and share in worship and meals? It would require extraordinary _____ and honoring others who had a very different upbringing.

The Scripture – Acts 15:6-9

Peter says, God “has made no distinction between _____ and us.” (10-11)
Who is your them? _____ “We believe that we will be saved through the _____ of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” **Barnabas and Paul** witness to their experience of God’s movement through the Gentiles. (12) **James the brother of Jesus** and head of the Jerusalem church makes a _____. (19) Gentiles must eat only meat prepared in the Jewish way and be sexually _____. (20)

To eat together, Gentiles must first embrace the “rules of polite company.” Leviticus 17-18
The second behavior, “fornication,” *porneia*, “has a broad range of moral currency in Greco-Roman moral thought but probably refers to temple prostitution within this setting...” –Robert Wall

To have a church that reflects the fullness of God requires constant cooperation between the faith community and the _____. Acts 15:30-31
Paul and Silas stay at the home of a Greek _____ who was not Jewish! Acts 16:14-15

How It Is Done – Acts 16:22-24

Paul and Silas are jailed and tortured with _____ in the innermost cell of the jail. Their response is _____ and singing hymns to God. (25) God responds. (26) Christianity in _____. (26)
The jailer has an _____ to the presence of Jesus. (29-30) Paul and Silas provide an _____ in real time. (31-32) The jailer responds with acts of _____ and submission proving his conversion. (33-34)

Action Step

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power of _____ to someone you think of as other.

