

A Church Under Attack, Her Authority and Actions

Acts 15:1-3

April 6, 2008

I. The Attack on the Church

- 1) God has provided for the protection of His flock. The e____s in the church are responsible for the teaching and oversight of the church. (Act.20:28; 1Pe.5:2; Heb.13:17)
- 2) These “certain men” did not get approval from the pastors. They were going behind their b____s to the people to get them to believe “their way”. (Act.15:1; 2Co.11:3-4)
- 3) What a great s____ to put a stumbling block before those chosen by God, redeemed by the blood of the Son of God, and regenerated and sealed by the Spirit of God! (1Co.10:32-33; Jam.3:1-2)
- 4) This attack was the greatest kind, upon the foundation of all that we believe - salvation by g____e alone through faith alone by Christ alone. (Eph.2:8-9; Act.15:1)
- 5) Our unity is based on the rightly-divided t____h of God’s Word. We must disagree with and w____ against error. It must be stopped immediately. (Act.15:2; Tit.1:9-11; Pro.26:2; Jud.9:27,57; Gal.1:8)

II. The Authority of the Church

- 1) One of the ways the Lord directs His children is through the institution to which He has given the keys of the kingdom – the ch____h. (Act.15:2; Mat.18:17-18)
 - a) The church c____e her representatives. The apostle submitted to the church. (Act.15:3)
- 2) The sending of members to Jerusalem was not an acknowledging of one church’s authority o____r another. They were seeking that a great problem should be recognized and dealt with immediately. (Act.15:1-3)

III. The Action of the Church

- 1) They, according to God’s pattern, sent at least t____ or t____ witnesses to establish that error had been taught by these from Judea. (Act.15:2; Mat.18:16)
- 2) They were not approaching “the mother church” but those who were taught b____ Christ, the apostles and elders. (Act.15:2; Eph.2:20; 3:4-5)
- 3) They understood that God’s Word which was given by the Lord to the Apostles and Prophets is the f____l authority for all matters of faith and practice for His people. (Joh.14:26; 2Ti.3:16-17; 2Pe.1:19-21; 3:16)
- 4) They not only had given their approval for these to go on their behalf, but as well their prayer, financial and emotional support, and so m____ we! (Act.15:3)
- 5) They shared their joy with these other churches as to what God had done through them. The missionary reports aren’t just to move us to pray for their needs, but to p____se God for what He has done through them.

May God help us also to remain faithful to His Word, stand against error, and be fruitful in His kingdom!