

**Live Peaceably, Love Others**

**Acts 15:13-29**

Rich O'Toole

03/08/2026

**I. The Church leaders agreed with Amos. Acts 15:13-17**

In this passage, the word **Gentile** can be translated as \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, the Lord took for Himself a group of people from other nations, who were not Hebrews.

- As James was quoting Old Testament prophecy here in the **Book of Acts**, the Second Temple in Jerusalem was \_\_\_\_\_ standing.

First, the Lord placed His Holy Spirit in believers, making us His Temple, but the Lord will build a \_\_\_\_\_ Temple in Jerusalem during His Millennial kingdom.

**II. The Lord knows. Acts 15:18-21**

James told them not to eat things sacrificed to idols, simply to live at \_\_\_\_\_ with their Jewish Christian brothers and sisters.

- Sexual sin is committed against our own \_\_\_\_\_, which belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, once we are saved. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

Gentile Christians had the “\_\_\_\_\_” to eat meat sacrificed to idols, to continue their marriage practices, and to eat food with blood.

**III. The final decision given. Acts 15:22-29**

By addressing these Gentile Church members as **brethren**, they affirm right in the introduction that the Lord is God of all, and with Him there is no \_\_\_\_\_ of persons. **Acts 10:34-35**

- It is obvious that the Church leadership was \_\_\_\_\_ on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct their decision-making.

**IV. Practical Application.**

The Council concluded that salvation comes through Jesus alone, not through laws, but they asked the Gentile believers to avoid certain practices associated with idolatry and \_\_\_\_\_. **Romans 12:18**

1. Food and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ or Not Observing Certain Days.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Practices.
4. Entertainment \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Personal \_\_\_\_\_.

Since I have given my life to Jesus, I should give up all of my rights and \_\_\_\_\_, be led by the Spirit, and love Jesus and His children.

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read **Acts 15:13-21**. What stands out to you in James's decision? Why do you think the apostles and elders emphasized not making it difficult for Gentiles who were turning to God?
2. In **Acts 15:16-17**, what is the significance of quoting the prophet **Amos 9**? What Temple is the most relevant in this passage? **1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Revelation 3:12, Colossians 1:26-27**
3. What were the main concerns of the early church regarding Gentile believers? How does this passage balance grace and guidance?
4. Why do you think the council chose the four specific restrictions (food sacrificed to idols, blood, strangled animals, sexual immorality)? The leaders say, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." What does that kind of discernment look like today? **1 Corinthians 8:8-13, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 1:9-10**
5. The letter encourages Gentile believers to avoid certain practices for the sake of unity. What does this teach us about using our freedom responsibly? When have you chosen to limit your freedom for the sake of someone else's faith? **Romans 12:18, 1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Peter 2:15-16**
6. Discuss the Practical Application of the Sermon. **Mark 12:29-31, Galatians 2:19-20, John 13:34-35**