

SHOULD CHRISTIANS _____?

Acts 15:22-35 (ESV)

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, 23 with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. 24 Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you[d] with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, 25 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: 29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

30 So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. 31 And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. 32 And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. 33 And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. 35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

GRACE AND GUIDANCE FOR THE GREY AREAS

THE HEART ISSUE – THREE PATHS

A. **LEGALISM = FAITH** _____

B. **LICENSE = FAITH** _____

C. **LIBERTY = GRACE THROUGH FAITH** _____

Notes: _____

5 HELPFUL QUESTIONS:

1. **DOES THIS VIOLATE** _____?

Three categories of Biblical Law:

1. Sacrificial/Ceremonial – Fulfilled by Christ
2. Civil – Culturally specific
3. Moral – Fulfilled and elevated by Christ; God's ongoing design for human flourishing



2. DOES THIS VIOLATE _____?

Romans 13:1 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

Notes: _____

3. DOES THIS VIOLATE _____?

James 4:17 *“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”*

Notes: _____

4. IS THIS AN AREA OF _____?

Matthew 5:29 *“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”*

Notes: _____

5. IS THIS A _____ FOR A BROTHER/SISTER IN CHRIST?

1 Corinthians 8:7-13 *7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble*

Notes: _____

1 John 3:16 *“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”*