

*Do you have to become a Jew, to
become a Christian?*

September 21

This was the question argued among the Apostles in the first church at Jerusalem. Acts, chapter 15, records the debate and the decision of James, the pastor of the church and the half brother of Jesus. It was decided that no one need convert to Judaism in order to become a believer in Jesus as Messiah. We no longer hear this question, but we do face many similar questions in our day. Many church denominations demand that an individual be converted to their particular doctrine of faith and practice before being accepted as a true believer with rights to the benefits of the Kingdom of God. This, my friend, is heresy, and should not be embraced as a condition for salvation. However, once born again, it is reasonable that we worship and fellowship with other believers who hold similar convictions, concerning doctrine, faith, and practice. Allow God to set you into His church as it pleases Him and not as it may please man, while giving every other believer that same right and respect.

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to remember that I am first a believer committed to You and am called to serve in the place of Your will for my life. Help me to have the grace and the wisdom to accept others You have called who may not be exactly like me. Keep me from being judgmental, critical, and exclusive since You have included everyone in Your plan.

Scriptures for Today

John 10:16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. (NKJV)

Acts 15:19-20 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. (NKJV)