

Coming to the Same Conclusion

- The Holy Spirit expected everyone who reads Scripture to come to the same conclusion on every subject
- *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1Cor 1:10*
- This is just as important as any other command in the Scripture. We must learn to speak the same thing and be perfectly joined together.

A Mandate We Must Strive to Keep

- Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1Cor 1:10
- Jesus has all authority – in His name ... must submit
- The Holy Spirit wrote Scripture so that:
- We must all speak the same thing,
- There can be no divisions among you,
- Strive to be perfectly joined together
- Have the same facts and thus the same mind
- Form the same conclusions and the same judgment.

Court: Defense and Prosecution

- The defense and prosecution use the same facts but due to bias and intent come to opposite conclusions.
- Defense always seeks to prove innocence
- Prosecution always seeks to prove guilt.
- Yet, we know only one is right.
- It is for a jury, with NO bias or intent to find truth.
- Must all come to same conclusion or it is a mistrial.
- Each lawyer brings evidence to prove their conclusion

Christians Must Become Jurors

- The Scripture contains only truth and all truth.
- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn 8:31-32*
- The only reason we don't speak the same thing ... ignorance ... bias ... intent.

A knowledge of the Truth

- *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim 2:3-5*
- *Since God desires all come to knowledge of truth, God wrote it so all men could.*
The reasons for all controversies today are not caused by what God wrote,
- *But how people choose to understand and interpret it.*

The Jury in Jerusalem

- Those who taught Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses
- Those who taught the Gentiles could be saved by obeying the gospel only.

No Longer Speaking the Same Thing

- *And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. Acts 15:1-2*

After they arrived in Jerusalem

- *And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." 6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. Acts 15:5-7*
- The Goal of this discussion ... to come to a knowledge of the truth, speak the same thing ... no divisions among them ... same mind same judgment

The Holy Spirit Gave the Steps

- *Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. Acts 15:7-8*
- *Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles Acts 15:12*
- *James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: 14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: Acts 15:13-15*

Considering the Matter

- Peter's Example
- Paul and Barnabas Inference
- James Direct Statements in Scripture
- They then wrote the first letter in the NT to set forth the truth on the subject of Gentile salvation.

The First Letter in the NT

- *They wrote this, letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — to whom we gave no such commandment — 25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 15:23-26*

The First Letter in the NT

- *27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. Acts 15:27-29*

Considering the Matter

- Peter's Example
- Paul and Barnabas Inference
- James Direct Statements in Scripture
- *They came to one accord ... all speak the same thing ... no divisions among them...*
- *it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, Acts 15:25*
- *For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: Acts 15:28-29*
- An inspired and Holy Spirit approved method to all speak the same thing and have no divisions

The Guidance of Examples

- Peter started with His example.
- The Scriptures make it very clear this was not a one time occurrence, but meant to be followed.
- *For you yourselves know how you ought **to follow us**, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9 not because we do not have authority, but **to make ourselves an example** of how **you should follow us** 2 Th 3:7-9*

The Guidance of Examples

- *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. 1 Cor 11:1-2*
- *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil 3:17*
- *I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35*

The Guidance of Examples

- *Therefore I urge you, imitate me. 17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. 1 Cor 4:16-17*
- *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:9*
- *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, 2Tim 3:10-13*

The Guidance of Examples

- *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Acts 17:11-12*
- After we have followed the example above and studied everything we can about all that has been revealed in the Scriptures about any topic where not all are speaking the same thing,
- We can then begin searching the Scriptures for examples that might have some bearing.