

***Sermon Title:* "Church Business Meetings Can Work"**

Date: April 30, 2023 - Acts 15

Central Idea: Salvation is because of God's grace through faith, plus nothing. Have you trusted Jesus for your salvation?

Introduction: After serving the church at Antioch for a year or so, Paul and Barnabas found it necessary to return to Jerusalem to address an uprising among legalistic Christian Jews still focused on the question, "What must Gentiles do to be saved?" Another great problem of early Christianity was to be settled by the laying down of a principle, that of salvation by faith and not works.

I. Dissension and Debate vv. 1-5

- 1. Problem v. 1**
- 2. Trip v. 2-3**
- 3. Conflict vv. 4-5**

II. Defense vv. 6-21

- 1. Peter's Speech vv. 6-11**
- 2. James's Speech vv. 13-21**

III. Decision vv. 22-35

- 1. Decision affirmed v. 22a**
- 2. Messengers appointed vv. 22b**
- 3. Letter prepared vv. 23-29**
- 4. Return to Antioch vv. 30-31**
- 5. Ministry in Antioch vv. 32-35**

Conclusion: When problems are dealt with in a spirit of prayer, trust, love, and obedience, they soon find their solution in the power of the Spirit of God. God has opened a wonderful door of opportunity for us to take the Gospel of God's grace to a condemned world. Help keep that door open – and reach as many as you can!