

Acts 15:1-11

1. Belonging to God's family is not about outward appearance.

1 Samuel 16:7... *The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

2. God's work doesn't always follow our rules.

Acts 14:27 *On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*

3. All of us have preconceived ideas that need to be surrendered to what God is doing.

4. We must be careful not to burden others with a yoke that we can't bear ourselves.

Matthew 7:3-5 *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Next Sunday we conclude...

This Changes Everything

Message: Pastor Jerry Strandquist

5. We are all saved by the same undeserved grace of Jesus!

***Acts 15:11**... We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.*

Important questions for us today:

- Who are the religious “insiders” of today?
- Who are the religious “outsiders” of today?

Pride says I’m better.

Jealousy says I’m not as good.

Comparison destroys true community.

How does this speak to us today?

- Because of the cross, all are welcomed into God’s family.
- Watch for Christian elitism within the church.
- We should model God in being radically inclusive.

Key learning: The cross changes who gets to belong to God’s family.

TAKE IT HOME:

- Before you leave today, talk with someone you don’t know.
- If you are not, begin befriending non-Christians.
- Start a Life Group and invite people into relationship.
- Stop trying to measure up; you are loved by God.