



How to Disagree (Acts 15)

**VINTAGE US, PART 2**

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor  
September 9 & 11, 2011

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**VINTAGE US** — The experience of the good news of Jesus *changing lives* and *spreading unstoppably* until it reached the “ends of the earth” ... a.k.a. *our* story, *YOUR* story!

*In every apple there is an orchard.  
The orchard is in every apple.*

**ACTS 15 ... BACK DOWN TO EARTH**

- Apparently even in a dynamic, world-changing, spirit-infused, Jesus-centered community, WITH Bible-writing apostles running around ... *conflict* is *normal* ... no *fun*, but *normal*!
- We will disagree — not a matter of IF, but *HOW*!

**HOW TO...**

1. HOLD ONTO *BIG REALITIES*!

*<sup>9</sup> “...and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.” <sup>12</sup> All the people kept silent...*

Acts 15:9–12

*<sup>19</sup> “Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, <sup>20</sup> but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood... <sup>28</sup> For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials.”*  
Acts 15:19–20, 28

2. ENGAGE IN PRACTICES THAT CLEAR  
*SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT.*

*<sup>4</sup> When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. <sup>5</sup> But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” <sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. <sup>7</sup> After there had been much debate, Peter stood up... <sup>31</sup> When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.*

Acts 15:4–7, 31

- Some tension should be *leveraged not solved*. (I’m indebted to Andy Stanley for this point.)
- Hash it out, turn it over, *hear the various voices*. (Note: this is not “*democracy in action*.”)
- JUST SAY IT: *Everyone has baggage*.
- GRACE is our *line in the sand*!
- End in *embrace*.
- Expect *imperfection* (see v. 36–41) — each disagreement feels unique!

STEP INTO THE GREAT EQUALIZER: *GRACE*!



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