



TRANSFORMATION

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



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**The Gospel
Transcends Culture
BUT...**
ACTS 15:1-31 NLT

The Gospel transcends culture.

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The Gospel transcends culture.

Transcend means 'to go beyond the range or limits of'

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ACTS 15:1-2

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.

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The Gospel transcends culture
– but we can love our culture more than the Gospel.

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ACTS 15:3-5

³ The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted. ⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. ⁵ But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

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The Gospel transcends culture
– but we create systems that build walls.

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ACTS 15:6-21

⁶ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue.

⁷ At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe.

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ACTS 15:6-21

⁸ God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us.

⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. ¹⁰ So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear?

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ACTS 15:6-21

**11 We believe that we are all saved the same way,
by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”**

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ACTS 15:6-21

¹² Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself.

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ACTS 15:6-21

¹⁵ And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

¹⁶ ‘Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it,

¹⁷ so that the rest of humanity might seek the Lord, including the Gentiles—all those I have called to be mine.

The Lord has spoken—

¹⁸ he who made these things known so long ago.’

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ACTS 15:6-21

¹⁹ “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. ²¹ For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”

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The Gospel transcends culture
– and so we must actively tear walls down.

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The Gospel transcends culture
– and so we need to celebrate it!.

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ACTS 15:30-31

³⁰ The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter.

³¹ And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message.

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The Gospel transcends culture
– and so we need to celebrate it!.

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Questions to ponder...

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1. When have you felt the Gospel was only for others because you didn't meet the requirements?

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Questions to ponder...

1. When have you felt the Gospel was only for others because you didn't meet the requirements?
2. Are there times in your life when your actions, or the underlying values in your heart, have made it difficult for someone else to experience God's love?

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Questions to ponder...

1. When have you felt the Gospel was only for others because you didn't meet the requirements?
2. Are there times in your life when your actions, or the underlying values in your heart, have made it difficult for someone else to experience God's love?
3. How can we become a church that celebrates diversity and embraces the ways the Gospel transcends our cultural practices?

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