

When to Fight, When to Yield

“The Life of Paul” episode 15

Acts 15:12–35

There is a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:8

Review: The pivot of the Book of Acts is chapter 15. Here, in 49 A.D., the first church council, the Council of Jerusalem, answered two absolutely critical Qs:

- (1) What is the role of the Old Testament law in becoming a Christian? (v. 1)
- (2) What is the role of the law in the Christian life? (v. 5)

Peter, the leading apostle, answers Q1 firmly in 10–11: Law plays absolutely NO role in becoming a Christian. In fact, human performance is excluded entirely. We are saved by grace through faith plus nothing. (see Ephesians 2:8–9)

James, the leading elder, answers Q 2 in 12–21: Nor does the Law plays a role in a Christian’s ongoing relationship with God! (v. 19) We live by faith. (Rom. 5:2)

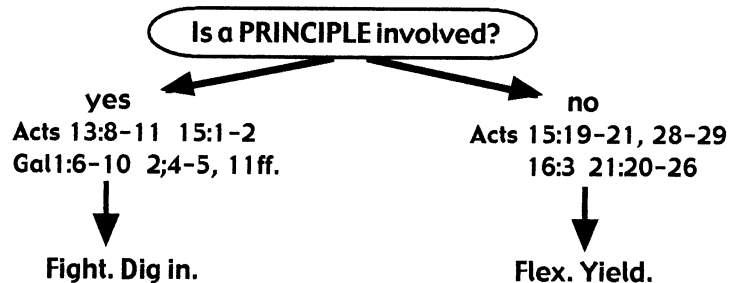
HOWEVER, says James, there are 4 rules which you would “do well” to follow. Wha-a-a-at?

- a) The four rules: vv. 20, 29
- b) The reason given for the rules: v. 21
- c) The resulting conclusion we draw . . .
- d) The 3 lessons we should draw from this:

1. Realize that _____ things are now lawful. 1 Cor 10:23a *Grace*
but not _____ things are prudential. 1 Cor 10:23b *Wisdom*
Where do you put your stress? (19, 28)

2. Pick your battles wisely.

Fight over pri _____, not over pra _____.
Be fierce about “first things”; flexible about “second things.”
Split over Bibco’s, not over Perco’s.



3. Let l _____ l _____ your liberty. 1 Cor 9:19–23