



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 11:**  
**“R U a Monkey or a Kitten”**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 15:1-29; Romans 6:15-16**

1. Do you think that the men from Judea (Acts 15:1) were Christians? What clues might Acts 15:5 give about them? If they were, Christians, then how could they say that circumcision was necessary in order to be saved?
  
2. In what ways do you approach the Christian life like a Pharisee? In other words, how do you try to pursue your sanctification (i.e. growth as a Christian) through your own efforts? Also, how might you judge others because of your struggles with *legalism*?
  
3. On the opposite extreme from *legalism* is *license* (living how you want to regardless of what God’s word says). How is *license* equally as sinful as *legalism*? Why do so many Christians choose to live apart from God after salvation and rebel against Him?
  
4. How do you spurn God’s instruction and live apart from Him? Are you aware of how you offend God through your sinful behavior? What does *Romans 6:15-16* tell us about the importance of obedience over that of sin? How should you respond to this?

5. What role does *grace* play in our sanctification? What role do our own efforts play? Can these two be reconciled? If so, how? Read *1 Corinthians 15:10*. What is this verse saying? Does this verse add clarity or further confusion to the discussion?
  
6. Why do you think that this first Church Council chose the three things from which the Gentiles were to abstain (*Acts 15:20, 29*)? What was the significance of these three things in the Jewish faith and why might they hinder our spiritual growth as Gentiles?
  
7. *Acts 15:16-18* indicates that God has always planned to extend salvation to the Gentiles (see also *Deuteronomy 28:10* and *Amos 9:12*). How does this impact your view of God and His *grace*? Confess to God areas where you need to embrace this *grace* rather than “hold onto” *legalism* or “let go” through *license*.

**Memory Verse:**

**“You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.”**

**(Acts 15:29, NIV)**