

jesus people

with TERRY LEBLANC

The Way of Jesus

APPETIZER: Why Can't You Just Be Like Me?

- It is perhaps the most historic sin of the Church
- It is the single most damaging question in the history of the Church
- It continues to challenge us today, as we seek to express our faith in the living God!

DINE IN: Full Circle

- God brings them full circle to the place where they are re-joined with the rest of the world's peoples - all of the formerly alienated.
- Through the Spirit they are told that their culture - the one specifically created for them - is not a necessary part of embracing and living out the good news of Jesus!!

Acts 15:1-29

The first 'committee' of the church meets, chaired by James, the earthly brother of Jesus, and hears that everything that has happened among the Jews is happening among the Gentiles:

- the Spirit,
- the gifts,
- the grace,
- the release from bondage to sin,
- the liberty to live with hope and an expectation for eternal life to come.

TAKE OUT: God's Gifts

"In order to keep our allegiance to Jesus Christ pure, we need to nurture our commitment to the multicultural community of Christian churches. We need to see ourselves and our own understanding of God's future with the eyes of Christians from other cultures, listen to voices of Christians from other cultures so as to make sure that the voice of our culture has not drowned out the voice of Jesus Christ."

-Miroslav Volf, Exclusion and Embrace

1. Who are you?
2. Who are you becoming?
3. How are you offering your gifts to God and to others?

Next Week: We return to our Faithful One summer series!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review the sermon – any lingering questions or helpful revelations?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Acts 15:1-29**
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. What is the issue that the early church is wrestling with here? Take turns explaining it in a way that would make sense to someone who doesn't know the biblical background.
 - c. What do you notice about the process of the council of Jerusalem in coming to agreement? What aspects of their listening, the time they take, the letter etc. can we incorporate into our own church and home church's process of living out the teaching of Jesus?
 - d. What do you think are the Church's "circumcision" issues today?
 - e. What do you think are the Church's "blood" issues today?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. How have you actively sought to be a peacemaker (someone who is helping to create peace), in your own conflicts or disputes, or in those around you?