

How to Settle Issues in The Local Church

Introduction:

- A. God wants members of the local church to be one in faith. - Philippians 1:27
- B. How should doctrinal issues in the local church be scripturally settled?

I. Background Principles

- A. The Lord wants peace and unity in the local church. - Ephesians 4:3
- B. It is sinful to cause division. - Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Romans 8:6
- C. Causes of division will arise. - 1 Corinthians 11:18-19
- D. But we must seek to lead erring brethren from their error. - James 5:19-20
- E. To have peace, we must have peaceable attitudes. - Ephesians 4:1-3; James 3:13-18

II. When church problems arise, we have an apostolic approved example to follow. - Acts 15

- A. Because this was a matter of faith, Paul and Barnabas did not yield. - Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 2:3-5
- B. The leaders of the church met privately to insure their unity. - Acts 15:4-6; Galatians 2:2,6-10
- C. The whole church came together to study the matter. - Acts 15:6-7,12
- D. The false teachers were given the opportunity to speak (though they were insincere). - Acts 15:7; Galatians 2:4
- E. The appeal was to divine revelation. - Acts 15:7-18; cf. Amos 9:11-12
- F. The leaders of the church stated the position of the church. - Acts 15:19-21
- G. The whole church concurred. - Acts 15:22-29

Conclusion:

- A. When divisive issues arise in the church we have an approved example to follow to settle them.
- B. By following this example we will:
 - 1. show our faith in divine wisdom
 - 2. and maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.