

Acts 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

Analysis

James's judgment - 'we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God' - concluded that Gentile conversion didn't require Jewish cultural conformity. His minimal requirements (verse 20) addressed practical fellowship concerns rather than salvation requirements. This decision preserved gospel purity while respecting cultural sensitivities, providing wisdom for contextualization debates.

Historical Context

James, Jerusalem church leader and Jesus's brother, held significant authority among Jewish Christians. His endorsement of Gentile freedom from law was crucial for the decision's acceptance by law-observant Jewish believers.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between gospel essentials and cultural practices in Christian fellowship?

2. What does this teach about addressing practical fellowship concerns without adding salvation requirements?

Interlinear Text

διὸ	ἐγὼ	κρίνω	μὴ	παρενοχλεῖν	τὸν	ἀπὸ
Wherefore	my	sentence is	not	that we trouble	them which	from among
G1352	G1473	G2919	G3361	G3926	G3588	G575
τὸν	ἐθνῶν	ἐπιστρέφουσιν	ἐπὶ	τὸν	θεόν	
them which	the Gentiles	are turned	to	them which	God	
G3588	G1484	G1994	G1909	G3588	G2316	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:28 (Parallel theme): For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Acts 15:24 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (References God): For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;