

Acts 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Analysis

The letter addresses 'the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia,' affirming their full status as brothers despite not being circumcised. The formal greeting emphasizes unity in Christ transcending ethnic boundaries. This written decree would prevent future Judaizers from claiming Jerusalem's authority.

Historical Context

Antioch, Syria's capital, was Christianity's first major Gentile center. Cilicia (including Tarsus, Paul's hometown) had churches planted during his early ministry. These regions formed the base for Gentile Christianity's expansion.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel create genuine brotherhood across cultural boundaries?
2. What does it mean to be united in Christ despite different backgrounds?
3. How can churches today foster unity amid diversity?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| γράψαντες | διὰ | χειρὸς | αὐτῶν | τάδε, | τοῖς | | |
| And they wrote | letters by | them | G846 | after this manner | which | | |
| G1125 | G1223 | G5495 | | G3592 | G3588 | | |
| ἀπόστολοι | καὶ | τοῖς | πρεσβύτεροι | καὶ | τοῖς | ἀδελφοῖς | τοῖς |
| The apostles | and | which | elders | and | which | brethren | which |
| G652 | G2532 | G3588 | G4245 | G2532 | G3588 | G80 | G3588 |
| κατὰ | τοῖς | Ἀντιόχειαν | καὶ | Συρίαν | καὶ | Κιλικίαν | |
| in | which | Antioch | and | Syria | and | Cilicia | |
| G2596 | G3588 | G490 | G2532 | G4947 | G2532 | G2791 | |
| ἀδελφοῖς | τοῖς | ἐξ | ἐθνῶν | χαίρειν | | | |
| brethren | which | are of | the Gentiles | send greeting | | | |
| G80 | G3588 | G1537 | G1484 | G5463 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:26 (Parallel theme): Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix sendeth greeting.

James 1:1 (Parallel theme): James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Galatians 1:21 (Parallel theme): Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

Acts 15:22 (Parallel theme): Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and

Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 15:41 (Parallel theme): And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Acts 15:1 (Parallel theme): And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 14:27 (Parallel theme): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Acts 15:4 (Parallel theme): And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

3 John 1:14 (Parallel theme): But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

2 John 1:3 (Parallel theme): Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.