



Working Through Prickly Problems Without Getting Stuck

Acts 15:1-35

Series: Acts, #18

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1. Define the problem. (1-5; see also 6-11)

2. Discuss the problem. (6-18)

3. Determine a God-honoring solution. (19-29)

4. Delight in God's encouragement. (30-35)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Prickly problems are one of the routines of life. Read Acts 15's record of a problem that could have been devastating but was not. This account teaches us to start with accurately and clearly defining the problem. Have you done that with the problem(s) you are facing? Take a pen and paper and write out a description of the most serious problem(s) you face.

Tuesday. After we have an accurate and clear description of the problem, we need to discuss it with others who are involved (cf. 16-18). Have you done that with the problem(s) you described yesterday? If not, move to do that. If you have and it still is unresolved, it may be time to broaden the discussion (see principles from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:15-20).

Wednesday. The third lesson from Acts 15 is to determine a God-honoring solution (19-29). Is that your goal in the problem(s) you are working through now? It means setting pride aside and evaluating all the ideas and solutions according to God's word. Are you committed and moving to a God-honoring solution?

Thursday. The believers in Acts 15 avoided being stuck by (and in) their prickly problem. When they reached a God-honoring solution they delighted in God's encouragement (31). They were encouraged because they knew this was God's work. You will be encouraged when the resolution seems "good to the Holy Spirit and to [you]" (28) and you see His work.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to think about the question "Will God really guide me?" from Acts 15:36 – 16:40.