

Smiles All Round

Acts 15.22-35

A Sharp Dispute, vs 1-7

- *how are we cleansed from sin?
through faith in Jesus v9
the same for all*
- *on what basis are we saved?
God's grace v11
not religious rules or rituals*
- *how does God show he has
accepted us?
by gifting us his Spirit v8*
- *we shouldn't make it difficult
for those turning to God v10,19
but be sensitive to others v20*

A Unanimous Decision, vs22,25

1. The Value of Putting Decisions in Writing, vs 23-29

- **a cordial tone, v23**
equality as brothers
- **a confession, v24**
mistakes had been made
confusion, upset Gal 1.7; 5.10
- **commendation, vs 25-26**
compliments for fellow Christians
- **confirmation, v27**
of decisions reached
by letter, and in person
- **cooperation, v28**
between God's Spirit and
God's people v10
see God at work in his world
vs 7-11; 10.35; Is 43.18-19
see God's truth in his Word
vs 13-21

- **clarification, v28-29**
of key issues
no unnecessary burdens
consideration for fellow believers

2. The Value of Face-to-Face Contact, **vs 30-35**

- **no more bad guys vs 32-33**
no more caricatures
- **smiles all round Eph 4.3**

be open to the Spirit
perceive God at work in the world
understand God's word aright
consider other's concerns
strive to stay united