

The First Dispute

Doctrine a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group

The First Dispute (Acts 15:1-11)

In the early church this is a core issue Its connected to salvation It's between believers It caused a commotion Circumcision was the big point but there was a bigger discussion brewing

This moment is about to define who the church is

Making the case for Circumcision

It was tradition

It was commanded by God

It was an important command

Jesus did it

Jesus taught it



I think I have made a great argument

What Changed? (v. 7-10)



There was a difference made between Cultural Commands and Spiritual Enlightenment

Culture always adds requirements to the relationship with God

They decided salvation is a heart issue



They placed an emphasis on faith and grace verses action and deeds

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

Ephesians 2:8



The debate did not end Acts 21 Romans 2 Galatians 2 and 6 **Ephesians 2**

Philippians 3

Colossians 2 & 3



But the Church Moved on (Acts 15:35)

But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.



Applying to Us

The decision by the early church was to adapt to culture

They did not allow culture to define the church

They did not allow their culture to become a stumbling block to faith (v. 19)



Moana is the girl that loves her island but also a girl the loves the sea

It's OK to love the church

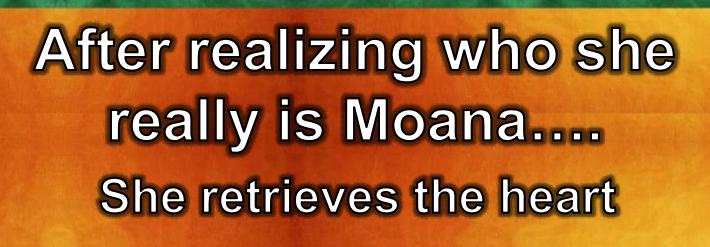
But not at the expense of the church's mission



She is the daughter of the village chief that descended from voyagers

It's OK be feel a responsibility to the church

But don't forget we are descended from people committed to spreading the gospel



Lashes the beams of her boat back together

Repairs her sails

Takes up her mission once again

Church Do You Know Who You Are?

