





FAMOUS FIRSTS

*Discovering Who We Are
by Learning Where We Began
Understanding Where We are Going
by Knowing Where We Started*

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 – Do You Know Who You Are

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



Moana – Do You Know Who You Are

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



**After realizing who she
really is Moana....**

She retrieves the heart

**Lashes the beams of her boat
back together**

Repairs her sails

**Takes up her mission
once again**



Church
Do You Know
Who You Are?

