

What is Atonement?

- Atonement is the “Biblical doctrine that God has reconciled sinners to Himself through the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ.”
- “[It] is the act by which God and man are brought together in personal relationship. The term is derived from Anglo-Saxon words meaning, ‘making one,’ hence ‘at-one-ment.’ It presupposes a separation or alienation that needs to be overcome if human beings are to know God and have fellowship with Him.
- Hebrews 9:11-14, 10:1-4, 11-12

15:20, 28-29 – Abstain

- We are to abstain from the things of the world to walk in the reality of your new identity.
- 1 John 3:8
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Titus 2:14
- Ephesians 5:6-14
- James 1:26-27, 2:14-16, 4:3-4
- Romans 6:9-18, 8:1-15, 12:1-2
- Galatians 5:16-25
- John 17:14-19
- John 10:9-11
- 1 Peter 2:9-10, 16

David Mathis in his article *Let’s Revise the Popular Phrase “In, But Not Of”* says it this way, “Let’s revise the popular phrase “in, but not of” in this way: not of, but sent into. The accent falls on being sent, with a mission, to the world — not being mainly on a mission to disassociate from this world. Jesus’s true followers have not only been crucified to the world, but also raised to new life and sent back in to free others. We’ve been rescued from the darkness and given the Light not merely to flee the darkness, but to guide our steps as we go back in to rescue others.”

15:34

- “This verse is not found in the oldest and most reliable manuscripts. Only two of the major manuscripts attest to the presence of v. 34, and they differ.”

ACTS CH 15:1-35 – THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL DEEMS CIRCUMCISION UNNECESSARY

Galatians 1:3-10 – No other gospel

Jerusalem Council took place circa 48/49 CE.

15:6 – Authority of the Apostles and elders

- The apostles and elders of carry the weight of authority concerning the things of Christ. The apostles being eye-witnesses of the life and work of Jesus, and having been hand-picked by Christ to continue his work (acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19); the elders being chosen by the apostles to be co-laborers with them to devote themselves to the ministry of prayer and the word of God.

15:1, 10 – Putting God to the test, placing an unbearable yoke/burden

- “The Jews practiced circumcision on the eighth day as established by Gen 17:9-14. The [Pharisee converts] here are arguing that a person enters God’s people by becoming part of Israel first.”

Why was this such a big deal?

- “Circumcision was a rite of entry into the community of faith. In the OT the origin of Israelite practice was founded upon the circumcision of Abraham as a sign of the covenant between God and the patriarch (Gen. 17:10). Circumcision was an external sign of an internal singularity of devotion of Yahweh.”
- “to demand that the Gentiles become Jews [by being circumcised] is to doubt what God has declared.” It’s to call into question the totality and finality of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and resurrection.
- Galatians 2:15-21 – Justified by faith, not the law

What is Salvation?

- Ephesians 2:1-10 – Saved by grace, through faith
- Romans 10:9 – Confess and believe
- Salvation assumes repentance. If there is no repentance and no faith, there is no salvation.