

The background consists of several concentric circles in various shades of blue, creating a tunnel-like effect that draws the eye towards the center. The circles are centered on the text.

*the book of*  
**ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*

*Acts 15:12-29*

---

**12** The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

**13** When they finished, James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. **14** Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

**15** The words of the prophets are in agreement with this,  
as it is written: **16** 'After this I will return and rebuild David's  
fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,  
**17** that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the  
Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these  
things' **18** that have been known for ages:

**19** “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. **20** Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. **21** For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

**22** Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.

**23 To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:  
Greetings. 24 We have heard that some went out from us  
without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your  
minds by what they said. 25 So we all agreed to choose  
some men and send them to you with our dear friends  
Barnabas and Paul — 26 men who have risked their lives  
for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**23** Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. **28** It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: **29** You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.





**⚠ CAUTION**  
**REMOVE CHILD**  
**BEFORE FOLDING**





1.

*The Vision*

# *The Vision*

**<sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. . . . <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this.**

**Acts 15:8-9,15**

# *The Vision*

<sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. . . . <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in

**agreement** with this.

**Acts 15:8-9,15**

**14** For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross.

**Ephesians 2:14-16**





2.

*The Mission*

# *The Mission*

It is my judgment...

# *The Mission*

It is my **judgment**...

# *The Mission*

**The Holy Spirit**

# *The Mission*

**The Holy Spirit**

**The Word of God**

# *The Mission*

**The Holy Spirit**

**The Word of God**

**The Community of Believers**

# The Holy Spirit

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit.

Acts 15:28

# The Word of God

The words of the prophets are in agreement with this

Acts 15:15



# The Community of Believers

They listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

**Acts 15:12**

# The Community of Believers

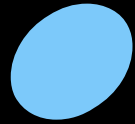
They listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. **Acts 15:12**

Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. **Acts 15:14**



3

*The Outcome*



# *The Outcome*

**They gathered the church together and delivered the letter.**

**The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.**

**Acts 15:30–31**

# *The Outcome*

They gathered the church together and delivered the letter.

**The people read it and were glad** for its encouraging message.

**Acts 15:30–31**

**Abstain – apechō (verb) 19 times in NT**

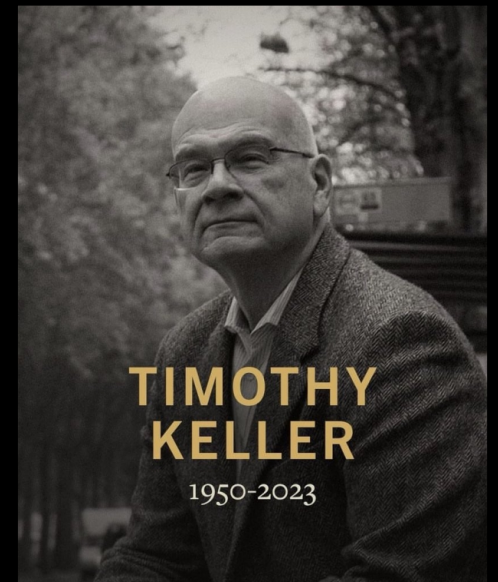
*To hold oneself back voluntarily,  
especially from something regarded  
as improper or unhealthy*





**“The Christian sex ethic was understood by the apostles to be a nonnegotiable part of orthodoxy, one of the core beliefs of Christianity. What Christians taught and practiced about sexuality was as much a necessary implication of the gospel and the resurrection as were care for the poor and the equality of the races.**

**This makes it impossible to argue, as many try to do, that what the Bible says about caring for the poor is right but what it says about sex is outmoded and should be discarded.”**





# Communion

Remembering His sacrifice.

