



THAMES VALLEY COLLEGE

KILOMETRE 10, SAGAMU-IKORODU ROAD, SAGAMU, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.

CLASS; YEAR 9

SUBJECT; C.R.S

TOPIC: Controversies among the early Christians

CONTENT:

- (i) Difficulties in relationships
- (ii) The church in Corinth

DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONSHIPS. (Acts 15:1-6)

While Paul and Barnabas were still in Antioch of Syria, there arose a question about the relationship between the Jewish and the Gentile Christians. The main issue was the observances of the Old Testament laws, mainly that of circumcision.

The Jews insisted that the Gentiles must be circumcised before being called Christians. This created a lot of problems for the church in Antioch. Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to resolve the issue. The matter was referred to the Jewish/Jerusalem council for debate. The council was made up of the 12 apostles, the elders, and the delegation from Antioch including Barnabas and Paul. The council was to determine if circumcision was compulsory and whether the Christian church should be for the Jews only or a new faith that embraces people from different backgrounds. It should also say whether the Gentiles could observe the laws of Moses.

EVALUATION:

- (1.) What was the cause of the controversy in the church?
- (2.) Can an uncircumcised person be a Christian? Give reasons.

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH (I Cor. 1:10-15)

The church at Corinth had become divided and Paul had to write to them. Some members of the church claimed that they were followers of Paul, the other group followed Apollos.

Another group followed Peter while the last group followed Christ. This was a sign that the unity of the church no longer exists.

In Paul's message to them, he urged them to remain united in the same mind and judgement and to believe in Christ since they were baptised in the same name. Paul appealed to them to remain bounded in Christ because Christ is one; there is only one baptism in God's name.

In addition, Paul separated with Barnabas for bringing John Mark to join them. Barnabas went to Cyprus with John Mark while Paul went with Silas to Macedonia.

EVALUATION:

- (1.) What was the cause of the division in the church at Corinth?
- (2.) What was the theme of Paul's message to them?

WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT

- (1) The controversy of circumcision started at ...
(A) Lystra (B) Jerusalem (C) Antioch

- (2)The Gentiles and Jewish Christians are different because ...
 (A) They are born of different parents (B) the Gentiles are wiser than the Jews (C) they have different religions and social backgrounds
 (3)The church in Corinth broke into groups. (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5
 (4)The theme of Paul's message to the church in Corinth is
 (A) Salvation (B) unity (C) patience
 (5)The main reason for the controversy was ...
 (A) Holiness (B) circumcision (C) equality

THEORY

- (1.) Why did the church in Antioch split?
 (2.) What caused the division in the church at Corinth?



THAMES VALLEY COLLEGE

KILOMETRE 10, SAGAMU-IKORODU ROAD, SAGAMU, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.

WEEK 5 **Date.....**

TOPIC: The Jerusalem council

CONTENT:

- (i) The debate and the council's decision
- (ii) The council sends a letter to the church at Antioch

THE DEBATE AND THE COUNCIL'S DECISION (acts 15:7-21)

The Jerusalem council was set up to examine the issue of the relationship between the Jews and Gentile Christians in the church.

The major problem was that all the converts are to meet up with Jewish religion before being admitted into the Christian community.

The issue of food, contact and circumcision were the main reasons for forming the council. Peter did not agree that the Gentiles should be forced to obey the laws since the Jews even disobeyed it. He also supported Paul and Barnabas in their work and agreed with them that believers are saved through the grace of Jesus Christ.

When Paul and Barnabas spoke of their work and mission among the Gentiles, James, the president of the council and others were reassured. They decided to write a letter to the church in Antioch, telling them of their decision.

EVALUATION:

- (i) Why was the Jerusalem council set up?
- (ii) What were the topics discussed in the meeting?

THE COUNCIL SENDS A LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH (Acts 15:22-29)

The Jerusalem council decided to write a letter to the church at Antioch based on the suggestions of James, the leader of the council.

The letter was sent through Judas (Barsabbas) and Silas. They were accompanied by Paul and Barnabas.

Parts of their decision to the church at Antioch were;

- 1- Abstain from pollution of idols
- 2- Abstain from strangled meat
- 3 - Abstain from blood
- 4 - Abstain from un-chastity

The council never supported those who started the trouble and disturbed the peace and unity of the church; they also praised the good work of Paul and Barnabas. The delegation delivered their message and encouraged the church and this made them happy. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

The letter to the church at Antioch was based on fellowship within the church between the Jews and the Gentiles. The main question of circumcision was cleverly set aside. According to the council, Jewish laws did not ensure salvation.

EVALUATION:

- (i) What were the decisions of the council?
- (ii) Why was the issue of circumcision set apart by the council?

WEEKEND ASSIGNMENT

- (1.) The Jerusalem council was set up to examine (A) Paul (B) issue of disunity (C) matter regarding circumcision
- 2. Peter did not agree that the ____ should be forced to obey the Mosaic Laws (A) Jew (B) Gentiles (C) Pharisees
- 3. ____ was made the president of Jerusalem council (A) James (B) Peter (C) Barnabas
- 4. How many people were sent with letter to the brethren at Antioch after the decision? (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 2
- 5. According to the council, Jewish law did not ensure ____ (A) Salvation (B) unity (C) patience

THEORY

- 1. Give the decision of the Jerusalem council to the church at Antioch.
- 2. Why did the church in Antioch send Paul to Jerusalem?