



A Church for Everyone

Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

Introduction:

- Church can be difficult to understand and accept
- Church for insiders or outsiders?

A Church for Everyone

1. Gravity pulls us toward _____

- God loves the _____
- Jesus died for _____

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.
John 3:16 NIRV

2. First Church Business Meeting

- Let's force outsiders to _____
- Make it _____ for people to turn to God

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch. Here is what they were teaching the believers. "Moses commanded you to be circumcised," they said. "If you aren't, you can't be saved." But Paul and Barnabas didn't agree with this. They argued strongly with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed to go up to Jerusalem. Some other believers were chosen to go with them. They were told to ask the apostles and elders about this question...
Acts 15:1-2 NIRV

When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church welcomed them. The apostles and elders welcomed them too. Then Paul and Barnabas reported everything God had done through them. Some of the believers were Pharisees. They stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must obey the law of Moses." The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After they had talked it over, Peter got up and spoke to them. "Brothers," he said, "you know that some time ago God chose me. He appointed me to take the good news to the Gentiles. He wanted them to hear the good news and believe. God knows the human heart. By giving the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles, he showed that he accepted them. He did the same for them as he had done for us. God showed that there is no difference between us and them. That's because he made their hearts pure because of their faith. Now then, why are you trying to test God? You test him when you put a heavy load on the shoulders of Gentiles. Our people of long ago couldn't carry that load. We can't either. No! We believe we are saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus. The Gentiles are saved in the same way..." "Now here is my decision. We should not make it hard for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Here is what we should write to them. They must not eat food that has been made impure by being offered to statues of gods. They must not commit sexual sins. They must not eat the meat of animals that have been choked to death. And they must not drink blood. These laws of Moses have been preached in every city from the earliest times.
Acts 15:4-11, 19-21 NIRV

Next Steps:

- ☐ I am turning to God and put my faith in Jesus as my savior
- ☐ As a church insider, I am letting go of: _____
- ☐ As a church outsider, I struggle with: _____
- ☐ I commit to attending the rest of this series
- ☐ _____