

Worldwide

Seeking Unity in Christ

Acts 15

Week 4 of 8

During World War II, Hitler commanded all religious groups to unite so that he could control them. Among the Brethren assemblies, half complied and half refused. Those who went along with the order had a much easier time. Those who did not, faced harsh persecution. In almost every family of those who resisted, someone died in a concentration camp.

When the war was over, feelings of bitterness ran deep between the groups and there was much tension. Finally they decided that the situation had to be healed. Leaders from each group met at a quiet retreat. For several days, each person spent time in prayer, examining his own heart in the light of Christ's commands. Then they came together.

Francis Schaeffer, who told of the incident, asked a friend who was there, "What did you do then?" "We were just one," he replied. As they confessed their hostility and bitterness to God and yielded to His control, the Holy Spirit created a spirit of unity among them. Love filled their hearts and dissolved their hatred.

When love prevails among believers, especially in times of strong disagreement, it presents to the world an indisputable mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ. (Our Daily Bread, October 4, 1992)

Our daily reading this week gives us scriptural pictures of people who remained unified in the midst of difficulty or were reconciled to unity after separating.

- DAY ONE – Genesis 45
- DAY TWO – Joshua 22
- DAY THREE – John 21
- DAY FOUR – Acts 4
- DAY FIVE – Acts 15:1-35

Memory Verse:

"No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." (Acts 15:11)

