

**THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
*Acts 15:1-35 // March 6, 2022 AM*

**I. Broader church courts combat harmful distortion (vv. 1-5).**

- A. Broader church courts combat weighty distortion.
- B. Broader church courts combat widespread distortion.

**II. Broader church courts employ humble deliberation (vv. 6-21).**

- A. Broader church courts employ God-fearing deliberation.
- B. Broader church courts employ man-loving deliberation.

**III. Broader church courts pursue harmonious decision (vv. 22-35).**

- A. Broader church courts pursue a unifying decision.
- B. Broader church courts pursue an edifying decision.

**QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP**

1. What does it mean for our church to be Presbyterian? Does Jesus govern His church through elders only at a local level or also at broader levels?
2. Why was a broader assembly called in Jerusalem? What was so serious about this error that warranted such a meeting?
3. How does the debate on the floor of the assembly evidence humility? To what witnesses do the apostles and elders appeal in their rejection of the Judaizing heresy?
4. Why did the council require Gentile converts to refrain from things like strangled and bloody meat?
5. What happens in the churches when the decision of this broader church court reaches them by its delegates?
6. How does Presbyterianism government reveal the love and care of Christ for us?

**QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION**

1. What other passages of Scripture teach a presbyterian form of church government alongside of Acts 15? How has Luke himself shown us the inter-connected nature of the various churches throughout Acts?
2. When I call myself a presbyterian, do I sense the loving, shepherd heart of Christ that pervades the title?
3. Do I pray for the regional presbytery and denominational general assembly, recognizing the weight and importance of these broader courts of the church?