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New Testament (Synagogue Replacement Paper)

The Jerusalem Council, which consisted of the church, the Apostles, Elders, and Pharisees were concerned with how the Gentiles should be treated now that they were being converted, and if it was necessary for the Gentiles be circumcised and keep the law of Moses. The early church consisted of four groups of people: The Jews who believed Jesus was the Messiah, Jews who were still waiting for the Messiah, Gentiles who were God Fearers and Gentiles who believed in the Messiah. It was very diverse groups with many different opinions. In order for the Gentiles to be a part of the new community, the Council believed they were to stay away from: 1). Abstain from things polluted Idols (Idolatry), 2). Sexual Immorality, and 3). Murder (spilling blood).

The argument of salvation is being saved by grace is the outcome even though it's sketchy as far as the Jewish council is concerned because they were still very legalistic. Paul and Barnabas state to them in verse 11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." Meaning as new believers in Christ, salvation is by grace and not the law. It was a time of great transition for the first century believers because most of the teachers were stuck in their old traditions, most were Jews who were new believers themselves, believed that Jesus was the Messiah, some were still waiting on the Messiah, and the Pharisees were the majority group of the Church, were trained to respect and obey the law of Moses from youth and throughout their lives. The teaching of the Gospel is a foreign concept to them even though in the teachings of the Torah, some of the teachings are pointing towards the coming Messiah. As for the Gentiles who were new believers coming out of pagan religion and were now coming to synagogues for worship and teaching really did not fully understand the Gospel of grace.

