

# Free Play

## Read Acts 15:1-36

**#1** “It is my judgment that we should not make it more difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God”. (Acts 15:19)

### Key Verse

**#3** There is something in our nature that makes us want to add regulations to everything. When I sit and watch my children play alongside others, it is fascinating to watch them build friendships so quickly (I wish we adults still did that). What is even more interesting, is after they build these quick relationships with these new friends they will begin turning towards organized play and soon enough you will see kids add layer after layer of do's and don'ts to their "free" play. You might hear something like, “You can only do [this] if you first tag [that]”.

### Modern Example

**#2** In our text today Paul and Barnabas are returning to the apostles to share the amazing and miraculous things God is doing in many cities to bring salvation to the world amongst the Gentiles. Tons of people are being saved. However, instantly the freedom and excitement of new relationships turns to "yes but first they must do [this or that] if they want to be saved". Thankfully, this council of Christ-followers declared that it is more important for Gentiles to be accepted and turn to God.

### Short Summary

**Concluding Main Point** The games we play as humans typically go like this, "you can play (be accepted) ***if*** you first follow the right rules we (or I) have made". Jesus, however, says, “You already ***are*** accepted, now come and learn to play alongside of me and I will show you the way.”

**#4** • In what ways have you made a list of how others need to act or respond before you will love and serve them like Jesus?

### Call to Action

- Have you had a list of rules in your head that you feel you must do before truly being accepted by Christ or joining God in the game of life he has created for you? **Write those down. In prayer, reflect on God's gift of free grace and and listen for God to remind you of how He's accepted you and invited you in before you ever learned the 'rules' of faith.**