Questions for reflection.

(not intended to be a sermon outline)

You are encouraged to use these as part of a study/devotional/reflection time through the coming week.

You are also encouraged to participate in the Explore Class after worship where we will use these as a discussion starter. Bring your questions as well for discussion.

1. *We generally expect and work to make the church a place of harmony and peace, but this passage points out a time of controversy. Was this necessary? How did it help or hurt the church going forward?*

2. *Did the Pharisees mean well in seeking to impose expectations on the new Gentile converts? How might you defend their concerns?*

3. *What do we see creeping into the church today that concerns us? What would you like, in your most Pharisaical moments, to impose on new people in the church?*

4. *How might we hold up moral standards while not imposing rules, policies, or barriers for new people entering the fellowship?*

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5. *Why does this come down to trust? Where does trust in the Holy Spirit take over? What is our part in upholding the holiness of the church? What is the Holy Spirit's part?*

6. *Why do we lose perspective after we have been in the church for a period? What makes us think we can set the criteria?*

7. *What other passages of scripture point to this same principle? (New Wineskins, Prodigal Son, . . .)*

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