



Embracing
Difference
within the
Community:

Seeking the Holy
Ground of
Togetherness in the
Spirit



**How is the reconciling power
of Jesus to be embodied in
our community in a tangible
way so that the difference
that divides can be embraced
instead as the ground of holy
togetherness?**

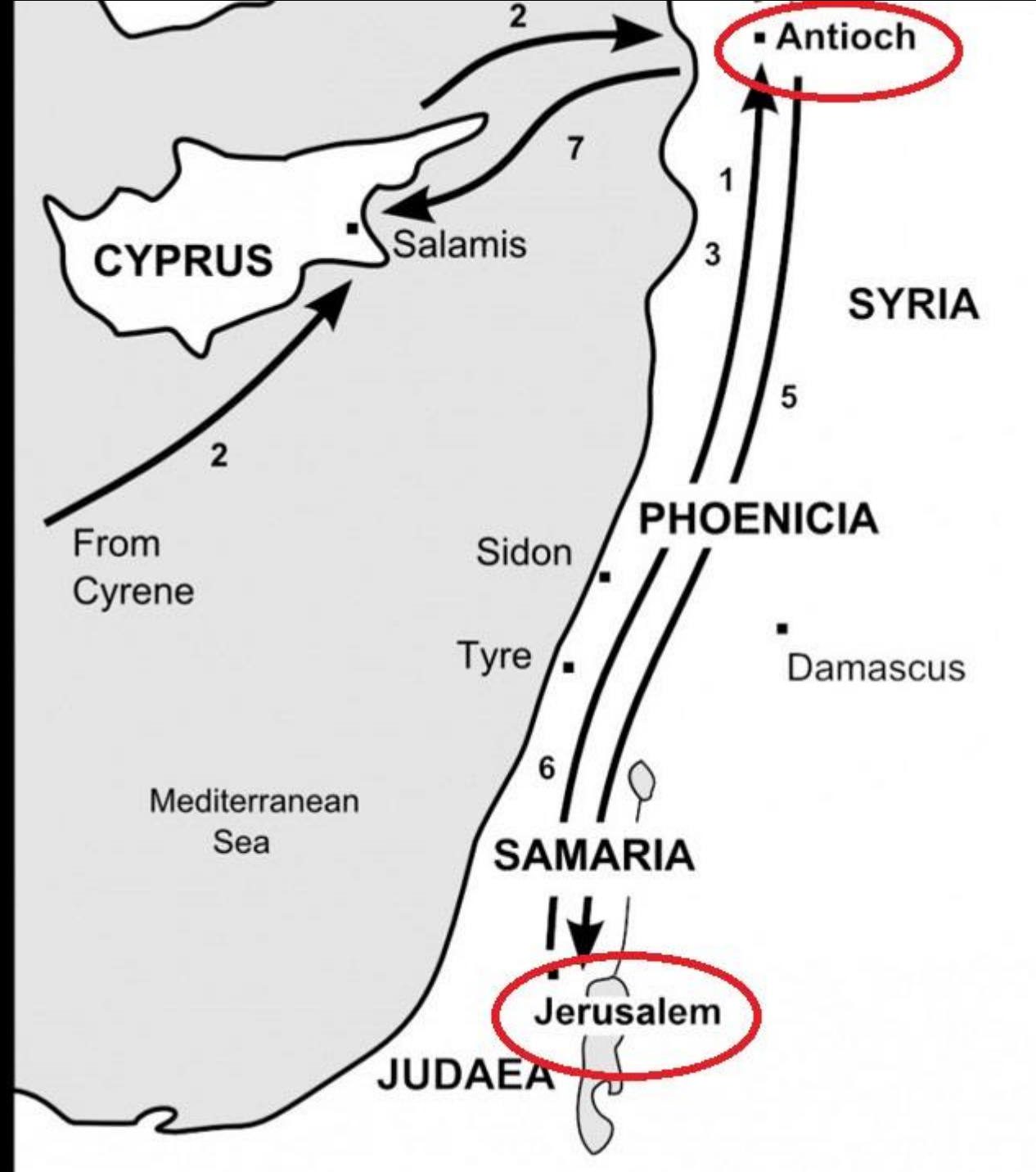





Acts 15

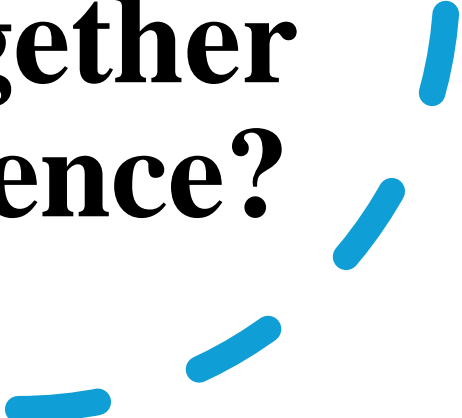
**A vision of togetherness
in the Spirit**

- In the church**
 - In the world**
- 





**Would the inclusion of and
acceptance of Gentiles
happen through
overcoming the difference
between Jew and Gentile
or would it be achieved by
a way of living together
amidst that difference?**





The Apostle Paul

**A Bridge Builder between
Jews and Gentiles**





Solution 1:
**Inclusion by overcoming
the difference**

Circumcision = Inclusion






**Solution 2:
Inclusion by the Spirit**


**The Spirit Poured Out =
Inclusion**

**Some Shared Ethics =
Inclusion**





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Our Calling – Tangible Actions:


- 1. Being attentive - to the
Spirit of God at work
expanding the community
of God**
- 



Our Calling – Tangible Actions:

**2. Standing up - to
embrace and celebrate the
presence of God's Spirit at
work amidst our
differences**





“They paid attention to the Spirit of God, they stood up to embrace and celebrate God’s Spirit at work in the deepest divisions and differences of their day, and everyone who interacted with their congregation rejoiced at the exhortations they gave.”

