



## God's Providence Through Human Conflict

Acts 15:36-41

Sunday, July 16, 2017

### 1. God's people must **AGREE** on the **MISSION**.

As believers we must **AGREE** on what God has called us to do,  
**MAKE DISCIPLES**.

What are your excuses for not living on mission?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

God uses **IMPERFECT** people to **ACCOMPLISH** His work.

### 2. God's people can **DISAGREE** on the **METHOD**.

We all have different **PERSONALITIES** and **PERSPECTIVES**.

**There are too many SOULS at stake to be arguing about our  
OPINIONS.**

### 3. God's people will be **USED BY GOD** to **ACCOMPLISH** His **work**.

They **DISAGREED**, parted ways, and God **WORKED** through  
the **CONFLICT**.

No matter the personal **STRUGGLE, DIFFERENCES**,  
or **DISCORD**, God will still do His **WORK**.

**WE MUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD ON MISSION!**

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*The separation of Paul and Barnabas is a pivotal moment as the church's first missionaries have a disagreement they cannot get past, yet God's sovereign purposes remain.*

#### **Paul:**

Apostle transformed by Jesus on the road to Damascus  
Missionary  
Church planter  
Theologian  
Former Christian Killer

#### **Barnabas:**

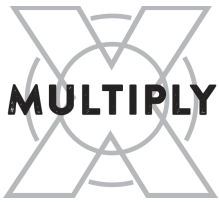
Disciple from Jerusalem  
Teacher and leader in the church  
Invested in younger leaders  
Known as the "son of encouragement"  
Rebuked by Paul in Galatians 2

#### **John Mark:**

Disciple from Jerusalem  
Mother is Mary who hosted prayer meetings  
Barnabas' cousin  
Deserted Paul and Barnabas on First Missionary Journey  
Wrote the Gospel of Mark between A.D. 55 and 59

#### **Silas:**

Leader and teacher in the church  
Spent time with Paul and Barnabas in Antioch  
Chosen by Paul for Second Missionary Journey  
Known as faithful by other disciples  
Served with Peter and delivered letter of 1st Peter



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Most Growth Groups are on a break for the summer. Growth Group questions are provided most weeks during the summer for GraceYouth, household, and individual use and discussion. However we encourage you to still gather together as a Growth Group if you can to discuss God's Word, care for one another, and pray together.

### Grappling with God's Word Together

1. How did you come under God's Word in the text/message this week? What struck you? How were you challenged/moved? What did you think/feel in response to this text/message?
2. How can we respectfully disagree with the methods of other Christians yet still work together for the mission to make disciples?
3. Is it wrong to have differing methods or ideas on how to serve the church or accomplish what God has called us to do?

4. What caused Paul and Barnabas to disagree? What were their different personalities and perspectives? What were they like as people?

5. *"No matter our differences with others we must keep moving forward on mission for Jesus."* Do you agree or disagree? What does this statement mean?

6. What does it say about God that He worked through Paul and Barnabas' "sharp disagreement"?

7. God uses imperfect people to accomplish His work. How does that statement encourage you as you live on mission for Jesus this week?

### Praying Together

*Pray that we would be able to disagree well with other believers on how to accomplish our mission to make disciples. Pray that God would use our different personalities and perspectives to increase the impact for His kingdom. Pray that God would use us to accomplish His work.*