

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 34: When Godly Christians Disagree

READ Acts 15:36-41 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

After some time, Paul and Barnabas decided to return to Galatia to see how the churches they planted were going. However, a conflict arose over whether it was right to take John Mark on the journey. As a result, the two men separated in their work for the Lord. Disagreements in ministry are unavoidable because each person has subjective evaluations over the most effective approach. This dispute shows us that even spiritual maturity is not a vaccine against disagreement and conflict.

Big idea: Believers must work hard to preserve unity and continue to serve the Lord despite conflict with others.

Questions:

1. During conflict people will either show “fight” (confrontational) or “flight” (non-confrontational) tendencies. How do you normally deal with conflict and disagreements in your ministry or family relationships?
2. What do you think was the reason for the sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? Who do you think was right and who was wrong?
3. What do you think Paul and Barnabas could have done to avoid allowing the disagreement to get out of hand and become polarizing?
4. When your perspective clashes with someone else’s, what might be some signs that tell you that you have crossed the line into sin?

5. From these verses what posture should you have in a disagreement or conflict?

Matthew 7:4-5

Col 3:13-14

1 Pet 5:5

Prov 12:18; 15:1-2; 16:23

Prov 15:22

2 Pet 1:3

Psalms 37:3

6. How did God use the conflict between Paul and Barnabas for good (vv. 39-41)? What were some surprising results? See Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; 1 Pet 5:13.

7. Notice that the disagreement did not cause either man to stop serving the Lord or speak ill of the other. What do you learn from this?

8. What has been your biggest take-away from this week’s study and what might you do as a result?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God that His gospel continues and His church advances despite conflict

Thank: God for using our conflicts with others to make us more like Christ

Pray: that you would clothe yourself with humility and wisdom during disagreements