



TRINITY

Methodist Church

Online Worship Service
(9/8/2020)

Bible Reading Acts 15: 36-41 , Ephesians 3:16

36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” **37** Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,

Bible Reading Acts 15: 36-41 , Ephesians 3:16

38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. **39** They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,

Bible Reading Acts 15: 36-41 , Ephesians 3:16

40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. **41** He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Bible Reading **Acts 15: 36-41 , Ephesians 3:16**

16 I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

SERMON

The CONFLICT



The CONFLICT





Barnabas, PAUL & Mark



The Sharp Disagreement

- At least 15 years of friendship
- Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s make a return visit ...”
- Barnabas wanted to bring Mark together
- Paul disagrees.

The Sharp Disagreement

- They separated from each other
- Barnabas took Mark and sailed away to Cyprus
- Paul chose Silas and departed
- Which one of them was right?

The Sharp Disagreement

- Looks like the church was inclined to the side of Paul
 - Acts 15:40 says that Paul and Silas were commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.”
 - It doesn't say this about the departure of Barnabas and Mark - No blessing. No honor. No mention again in Acts.

What is Going On?

- Christianity is not the absence of stupidity and hurt.
- Christianity is the message of a God who uses our stupidity and hurt to make us what we are destined to be.

1. Disagreement Is Inevitable

- Opinion versus Gospel Truth
- Disagreements can escalate into quarrels and fights because of selfishness
- As the people of God we have the spirit of God within

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

- We must work hard so as not to explode and hurt
- Charles Swindoll: “When disharmony arises between two people or two groups, there is some measure of fault on both sides. Both parties must be encouraged to see each other’s fault, each other’s failure ... and meet on common ground with a mutual willingness to listen and change.”

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

2.1 Agree to Disagree Agreeably

- Remember relationship.
- If you always have to be right, you will intimidate and manipulate others into giving you your way.

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

2.2 Be Humble And Forgive

- Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
- Don't dwell on the people that hurt you and the weakness of the church.
- This isn't easy, it takes a lot of humility.

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

2.2 Be Humble And Forgive

- James 4:6 says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”
- Even though you have been hurt you must be humble.
- You must hv a forgiving attitude





**I forgive people
but that doesn't mean I
accept their behavior
or trust them.**

**I forgive them
for me, so I can let
go and move on
with my life.**

原谅是释放一个囚犯，并发现
你就是那囚犯。



“To forgive is to
set a prisoner free
and discover that
the prisoner was you.”

Lewis B. Smedes

Goalcast

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

2.2 Be Humble And Forgive

- Eph 4:32 says “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Forgive NOT vengeance.

2. Disagreement Can Be Solved

2.2 Be Humble And Forgive

- Romans 12:19 says “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay, “says the Lord.
- This is going to take the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Eph 3:16 says “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”

3. God Cares And Understands

- Psalms 34:18 “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
- Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

3. God Cares And Understands

- Isaiah 53:5 says “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
- We are healed from the damaging effects of sin as well as the effects of the church hurts.