



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High.  
**Title:** When Christians Disagree  
**Lesson:** 81

**Text:** Acts 15:30-40  
**Date:** Sept. 15, 2024

Acts 15:30 So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

32 Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message.

33 After they had spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out.

34 But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

35 But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

**“sharp disagreement”**

**“separated”**

40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. 41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Six principles that apply to Christian disagreement:**

- 1. We should not be \_\_\_\_\_ if godly, mature Christians disagree.**
- 2. On issues of deep personal conviction, \_\_\_\_\_ can be right.**

**Barnabas was concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_, Paul was concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**How Barnabas saw it:**

**How Paul saw it -**

Acts 15:40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ may ultimately be preferable to continual disagreement.**

Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

**4. God's Word is sometimes advanced through \_\_\_\_\_, including disagreements.**

Psalm 76:10 For the wrath of man shall praise You; With a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.

**5. We can agree without being \_\_\_\_\_.**

**How do we know if we have crossed the line?**

A. When the issue becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ passion of your life.

B. When we start thinking about \_\_\_\_\_.

C. When we begin to attack the \_\_\_\_\_  
and not the problem.

**6. The ultimate goal should to \_\_\_\_\_  
and the restore the friendship.**

### **Paul's attitude toward Barnabas**

1 Corinthians 9:6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have  
a right to refrain from working?

### **Paul's attitude toward John Mark**

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you  
his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about  
whom you received instructions; if he comes to you,  
welcome him);

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and  
bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

## Discussion guide

1. One of the most hurtful experiences is for two close believes to have a falling out. Have you experienced this? If so, how have you worked through it?
2. After listening to the sermon, who do you believe was right or more right than the other?
3. Barnabas and Paul saw the situation differently. Barnabas was more about John Mark, but Paul was more concerned about the work. Which direction to you tend to lean toward?
4. If you were Barnabas or Paul, what would you have done to keep the relationship from being torn apart?

**ANSWERS:** surprised, both, man, work, Separation, sin, disagreeable, controlling, revenge, person, reconcile