



# Developing the Grace to Disagree

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Acts 15:36-41



# First Missionary Journey



<sup>30</sup> So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup> And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. <sup>32</sup> And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

<sup>33</sup> And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. <sup>35</sup> But **Paul and Barnabas** remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

# When Ministers Agree then Disagree

<sup>36</sup> And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”

# When Ministers Agree then Disagree

<sup>37</sup>Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup>But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup>And there arose a sharp disagreement,

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,  
Acts 13:13



# When Ministers Agree then Disagree

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## When Ministers Agree then Disagree

<sup>39</sup> And there arose **a sharp disagreement**, so that they separated from each other.

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup>but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup>And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Realizing disagreement is bound to happen even among spiritually mature people.

<sup>39</sup> And there arose **a sharp disagreement**, so that they separated from each other.

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Realizing disagreement is bound to happen even among spiritually mature people.

So, when legitimate disagreements arise of how to do ministry do not rush to judge one's spirituality.

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Understanding there can be two or more valid positions if they are not sinful choices.

<sup>39</sup> And there arose **a sharp disagreement**, so that they separated from each other.

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Understanding there can be two or more valid positions if they are not sinful choices.

So, when in a disagreement ask the Lord for the insight to see both points of view not just yours.

# Develop the grace to disagree by...

Remembering God's providence in ministry matters.

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,  
40but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been  
commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.  
41And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening  
the churches.

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Remembering God's providence in ministry matters.

So, when in a disagreement of how to do things, trust God will accomplish His purposes.



Develop the grace to disagree by...

Putting on Christlike attitudes and actions.

<sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil. Ephesians 4

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Putting on Christlike attitudes and actions.

<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4

Develop the grace to disagree by...

Putting on Christlike attitudes and actions.

<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4

## Prepare

(pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options)

## Affirm relationships

(show genuine concern and respect for others)

## Understand

(identify others' concerns, desires, needs, limitations, fears)

## Search for creative solutions

(prayerfully brainstorm)

## Evaluate options

(evaluate objectively and reasonably, don't argue)