



# LIFE TOGETHER

***Learning from everyone God  
brings into your life.***



***People come into our lives . . .***

***Some for a brief time.***


***Some for a lifetime.***

***Some for a season.***



***But all for a reason.***

***Paul's second missionary trip (49-52 AD)***





***Acts 15:36-18:22***



# THE SEASON

**Acts 15:36, “Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’” (NIV)**

# THE SEASON

**Acts 15:37-38, “Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 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.” (NIV)**

# THE SEASON

**Acts 15:39-41, “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” (NIV)**

# THE SEASON

*The Peace Maker* by Ken Sande,

Here we see that, “Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests or opinions can also lead to conflict.”



# **THE CONFLICT**

**Barnabas' side. . .**

**Give John Mark a second chance.**



# THE CONFLICT

**Acts 4:36-37, “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” (NIV)**

# THE CONFLICT

**Acts 9:26-27, “When he (Saul/Paul) came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.” (NIV)**



# **THE CONFLICT**

**Paul's side. . .**

**It's too soon for Mark to have  
that responsibility.**



# THE CONFLICT

**1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 teach us that certain areas of ministry are to have high standards and that individuals must prove their calling.**

# **THE CONFLICT**

**Barnabas' focus was on the individual.**

**Paul's focus was on the church.**

# **When it comes to people...**

- **Some decisions don't fit into neat packages.**
- **It is very difficult to maintain consistency, because people are very different.**

# **When it comes to people...**

- **Rules and relationships don't often work well together.**
- **Sometimes our disagreements cannot be resolved by just sharing a quick reference from God's Word.**



**“Paul and Barnabas prayed  
about it.”**

**What do we do?**

**Ignore it or the person?**





**Hold a grudge against the  
person?**

**Do we keep fighting until  
someone wins?**

**Do we break off the  
friendship?**





**Do we avoid them?**

**Do we change jobs or  
churches?**

**Do we just pretend there is  
no problem?**






**What do we do?**

**What happens when our  
differences are not clearly  
right or wrong?**





**What happens when God's  
Word is unclear about the  
answer?**

**How do we handle unclear  
conflict?**






# **THE LESSON**

**We must resist exaggeration.**


**We need to learn to keep minor things minor, let major things stay major, and know the difference between the two.**





# **THE LESSON**

**Our methods may be  
different, but our fellowship  
must be united.**



# THE LESSON

**In 1 Corinthians 9:3-6, Paul speaks to the Corinthian Church about his and Barnabas' ministry.**

# THE LESSON

**2 Timothy 4:11, “Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.” (NIV)**

# THE LESSON

**They may have had different styles, they may have disagreed about who should serve and how, but they were both working for the same purpose!**

# THE LESSON

**1 Corinthians 12:5-6, “There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” (NIV)**

# THE LESSON

**In Acts 15:1-35 (the  
Jerusalem Council), the  
Devil sought to divide  
through Theology.**

# THE LESSON

**In Acts 15:36-41, the Devil sought to divide through Methodology.**

# THE LESSON

**It is not a sin to do something stupid, but it is a sin to be bitter, hateful, a gossip and/or to create disunity.**

# THE LESSON

**1 Samuel 15:23, “Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.”**

**(NLT)**

# **THE LESSON**

**We must see the conflict as  
an opportunity . . .**

**To Glorify God.**

**To Glorify God before the  
unchurched.**

# THE LESSON

**Jesus, “A new command I give you:  
Love one another. As I have loved  
you, so you must love one another.  
By this all men will know that you  
are My disciples, if you love one  
another.” (John 13:34-35-NIV)**

# **THE LESSON**



To **Glorify** God by **loving** the unlovable.


**Romans 13:8, “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.” (NIV)**

# THE LESSON


To Glorify God by serving others.

**Galatians 5:13, “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” (NIV)**

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- 1. God's Word speaks so much about it.**
  - 2. I see it so much!**
  - 3. How we handle conflicts with others, tells much about our spiritual life.**
  - 4. How we handle conflicts with others, is either a positive or negative expression of Jesus to the world.**



**2 Corinthians 4:7, “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” (NIV)**





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