

# THE IMPACT OF EMOTIONAL DECISIONS

Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-40

**THE BIG IDEA:** Even through broken relationships and rejection, God is the Great Restorer.

## TO MAINTAIN UNITY WITH OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS WE MUST BE LED BY THE SPIRIT RATHER THAN OUR EMOTIONS.

- “13 Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John left them and went back to Jerusalem.” (Acts 13:13)
- Some of our biggest struggles come when God is using us for His glory.
- When we are led by the Holy Spirit rather than our personal desires (the flesh), we consider how our actions impact others and respond appropriately.
- “For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don’t use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another. 16 I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:13-16)

## DISUNITY AND DRAMA ARE TOOLS OF SATAN TO DISRUPT THE WORK OF GOD

- “37 Barnabas wanted to take along John Mark. 38 But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus.” (Acts 15:37-39)
- Hurt and/or pride can lead us to make decisions that cause more harm to an already painful situation.
- “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!” (Psalm 133:1)
- As Christians we must lay aside our pride and seek unity with our fellow Christians so that God may be glorified, and His kingdom advanced on earth.
- “If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” (Philippians 2:1-2)

## GOD IS THE GREAT RESTORER OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

- “10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark, Barnabas’s cousin (concerning whom you have received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and so does Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcised are my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.” (Colossians 4:10-11)
- “Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:11)
- God restored the most broken relationship in history when he reconciled us to Himself by sending Jesus to die for us.
- “Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
- If we are truly in Christ then reconciliation is a necessary part of who we are and what we should pursue.

## CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Icebreaker:** Who was your best childhood friend and what is that relationship like today?
- Why is unity so important among Christians?
- How do we avoid allowing disunity to develop with those whom we are called to love and be in fellowship with?
- What are some active steps you can take to restore a relationship that has been broken due to pride or unforgiveness?
- What does it mean that “[God] has committed the message of reconciliation to us”? (See 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)
- Pray for those in your Connect Group, and our Church, to walk in unity and in the ministry of reconciliation.