

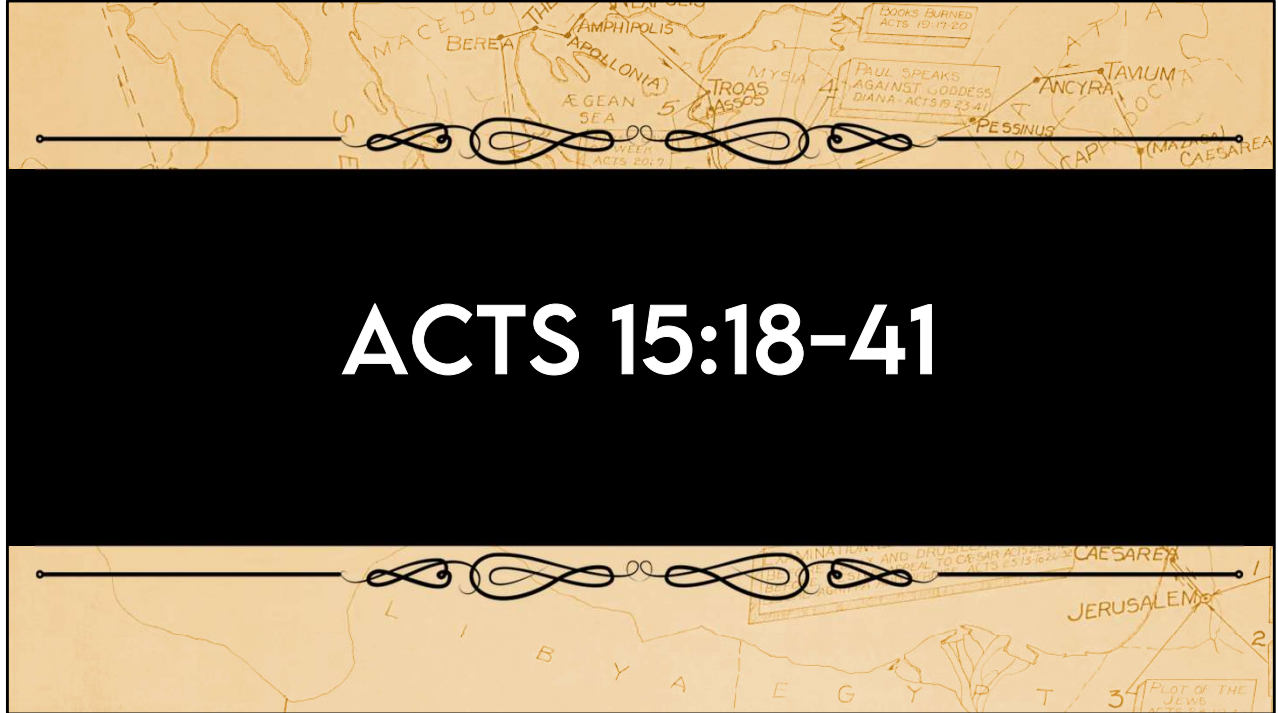
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¹⁹Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. ²¹For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 15:18–21.

Conflict Resolution

#TheTruthShallSetYouFree

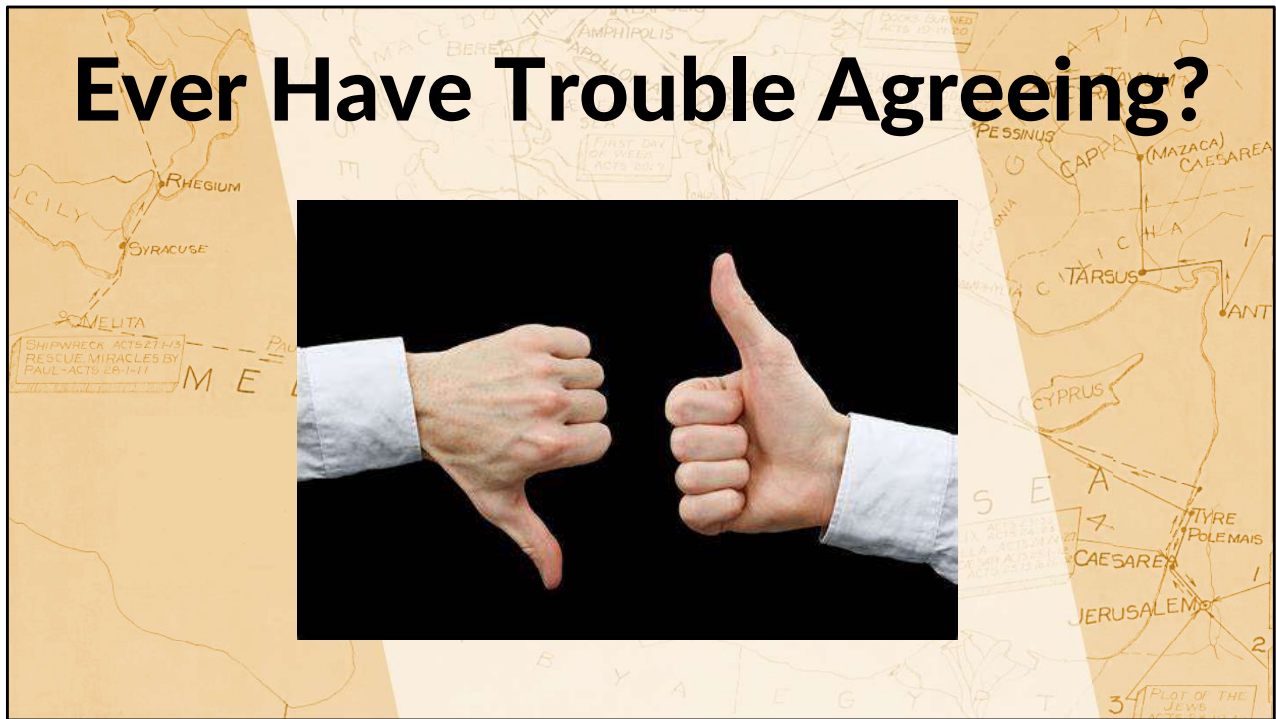


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Ever Have Trouble Agreeing?



- You KNOW that you are right
- You are tired of always being the one to give in
- You do not believe that you are being heard
- You are uncomfortable with the decision being made

Some Things are Clear – and Some are Not

Clear things

- Things directly addressed in the Word
- Things that are legal moral and ethical
- Instruction for Holy Spirit

Less Clear things

- *What I should eat*
- *What I should wear*
- *What I should watch on TV*
- *Whether Star Trek or Star Wars is better*





We Want to Walk in Unity

- Amos 3:3
- Ps. 133:1-4
- John 13:35

- Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?
(Amos 3:3)
- Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity! ²*It is* like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³*It is* like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore. (PS. 133:1-4)
- By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you

have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Am 3:3.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ps 133:1–3.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Jn 13:35.



- Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? (James 4:1)
- ⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (Titus 3:9-11)
- ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness (2 Tim 2:16)

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Jas 4:1.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Tt 3:9–11.

The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), 2 Ti 2:16.



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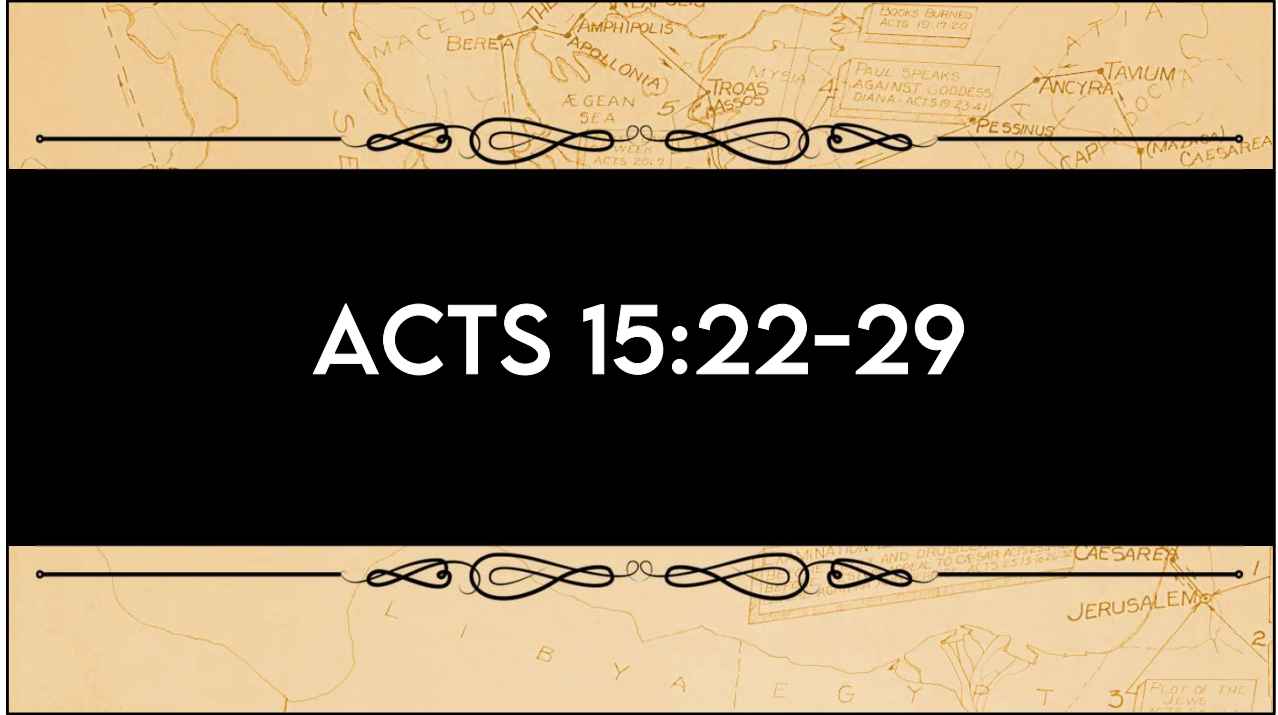


Points of Abstinence

- Things polluted by idols
- Sexual immorality
- Things strangled
- Blood

Why These Four Things?

- Required in the law of people who were NOT Jews while they stayed with Jews in Israel
- Known issues of Gentile culture
- Clear Biblical case for the decision



ACTS 15:22-29

²² Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

²³ They wrote this *letter* by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “*You must* be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no *such* commandment—²⁵ it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Farewell.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 15:22–29.

Theological Significance



1. Gentile Christians are members of the faith that need not follow Judaism if they believe in Jesus
2. Jews were not forbidden to continue their lifestyle as long as they believe in Jesus
3. There are core Biblical values that should not be violated, and other things do not matter as much

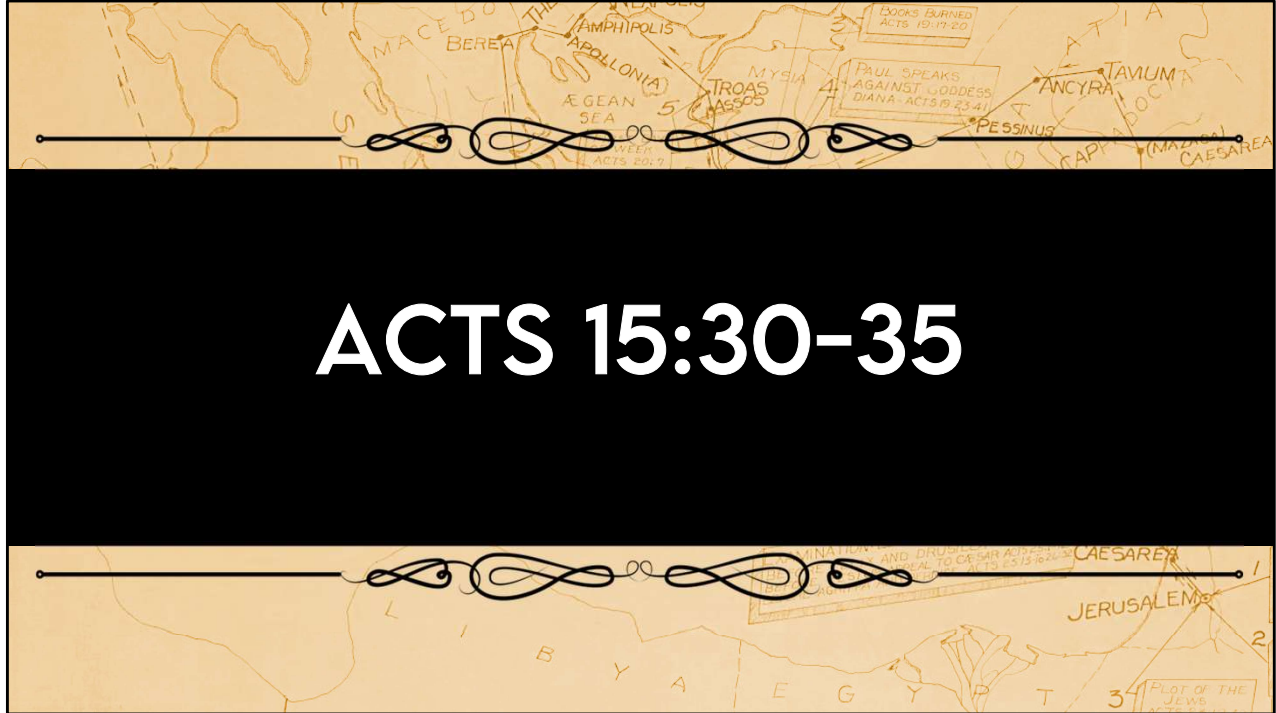


Unified in the Truth

- It pleased the apostles, the elders and the whole church to send Paul and Barnabas
- They assembled with one accord
- The decision seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us
- They shared the decision to foster unity

I am quite sure that the best way to promote union is to promote truth. It will not do for us to be all united together by yielding to another's mistakes

C.H. Spurgeon



³⁰ So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. ³² Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. ³³ And after they had stayed *there* for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles.

³⁴ However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

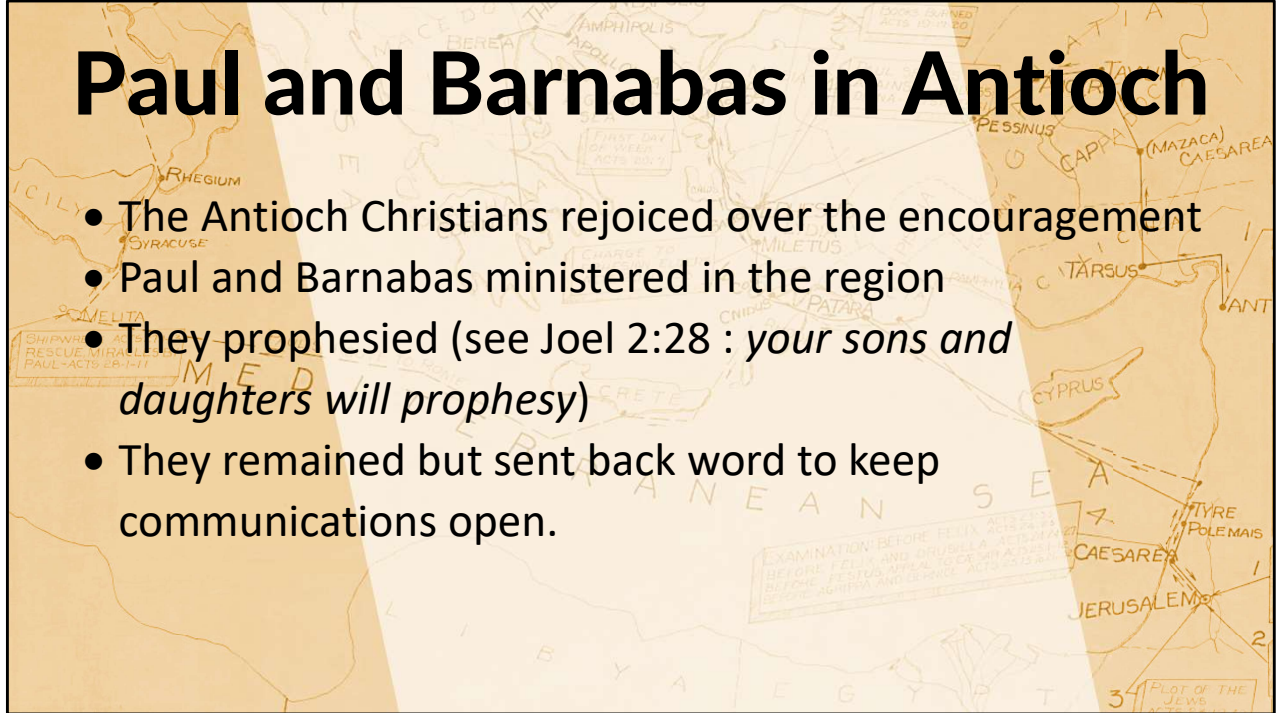
³⁵ Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with

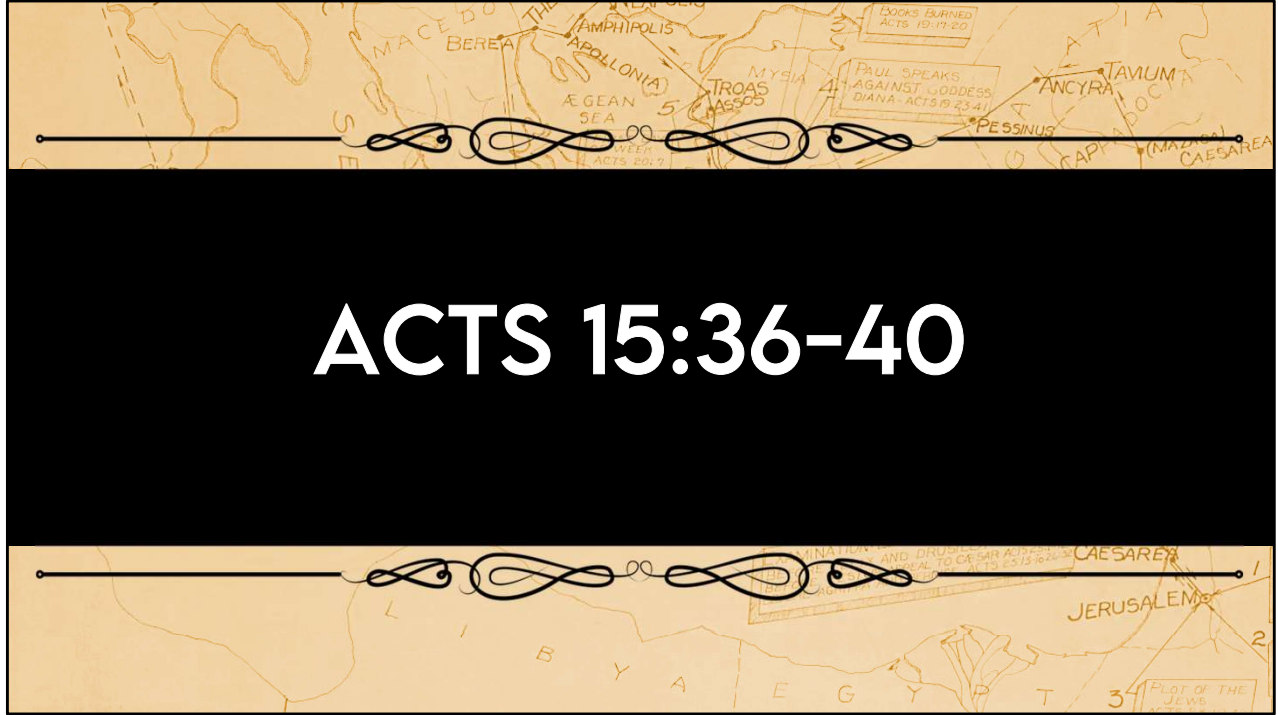
many others also.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 15:30–35.

Paul and Barnabas in Antioch

- The Antioch Christians rejoiced over the encouragement
- Paul and Barnabas ministered in the region
- They prophesied (see Joel 2:28 : *your sons and daughters will prophesy*)
- They remained but sent back word to keep communications open.





ACTS 15:36-40

Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and* see how they are doing.”³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the

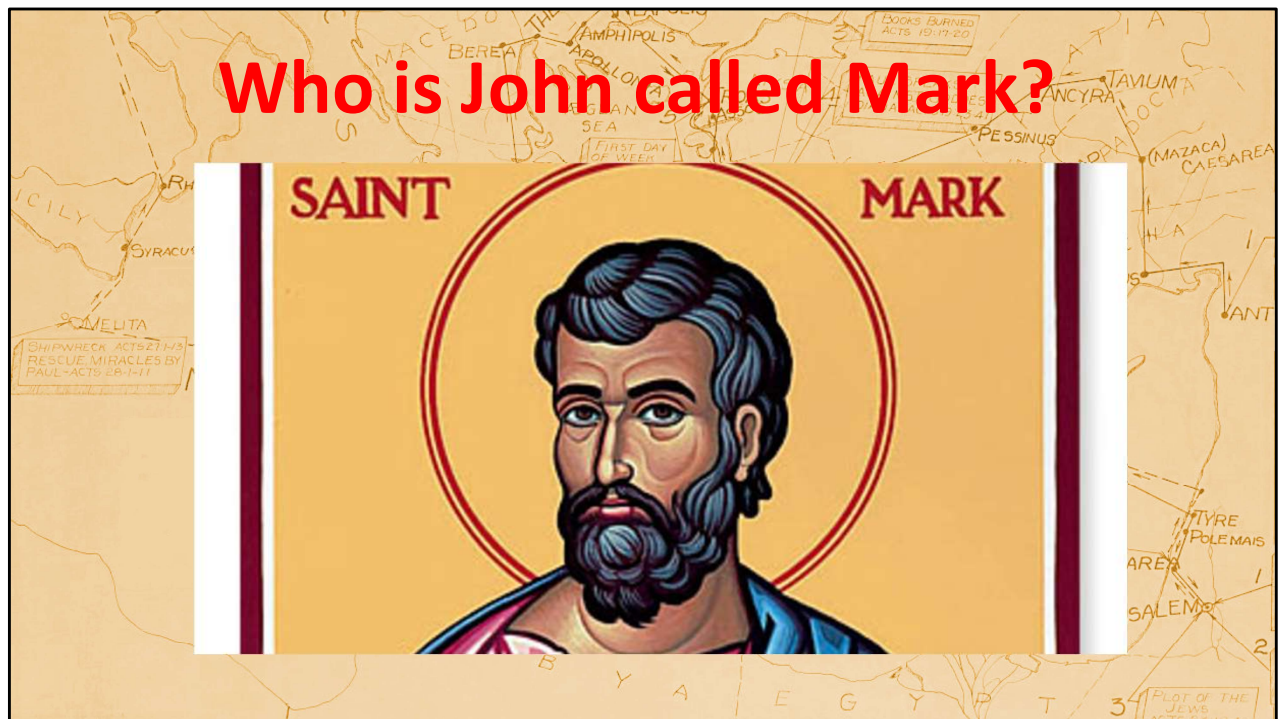
brethren to the grace of God. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

[The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ac 15:36–41.

Paul and Barnabas Disagreed



- Paul did not want John Mark to join them on the second missionary journey
- Barnabas wanted to continue to work with his cousin
- They split up, with Barnabas returning to his home territory east in Cyprus and Paul taking Silas



- John Mark was Barnabas's cousin. Barnabas likely wanted to disciple him
- He had joined Paul and Barnabas on their first journey, but left them partway through (acts 13:13)
- John Mark went on to write the Gospel of Mark
- He founded the Coptic church and became the first bishop of Alexandria before the church in Rome has been established



Do We Always Find God's Will?

- Sin dwells within us (Rom. 7:15-17)
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8-10)
- All things work together for good (Rom. 8:26-28)

- ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me (Rom 7:15-17)
- ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him

a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

- ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.
- ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His purpose* (Rom. 8:26-28)

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ro 7:15–17.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), 1 Jn 1:8–10.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ro 8:26–28.



Takeaway

Unity can be found
in the Truth

How Then Should We Live?

1. Live with a transformed mind (Rom. 12:1-2)
2. Live not to just please yourself (Rom. 15:3-6)
3. Speak the same thing (1 Cor. 1:10)

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:1-2)
2. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “*The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.*” ⁴ For whatever things were written

before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 15:3-6)

3. ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor. 1:10)

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ro 12:1–2.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ro 15:3–6.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), 1 Co 1:10.



