

# The Church **IGNITED**

Relational Strain & the Holy Spirit - Acts 15:36-41

PRINCIPLE #1: \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ people.

## DISAGREEMENT OVER JOHN-MARK (Acts 15:36-41)

PRINCIPLE #2: Being concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of believers is a really good thing.  
(2 Corinthians 11:3, 28; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

## APPROACHING THE LORD'S TABLE / COMMUNION TOGETHER

### HOLY SPIRIT 101 (See Link Titled Handout)

**PROBLEM:** Barnabas wanted to take John-Mark again & Paul  
does not

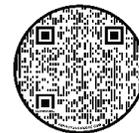
- ▶ BARNABAS: This is the classic, "give him a second chance"  
kind of guy
- ▶ PAUL: This is the classic "man on a mission" guy

PRINCIPLE #3: It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with  
other Christ-followers.

## WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THIS SHARP DISAGREEMENT?

- ① The formation of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ② John-Mark \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
both Paul & Barnabas
- ③ John-Mark & the Apostle Paul were \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11)

PRINCIPLE #4: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit can  
be \_\_\_\_\_ & is sometimes only recognized in  
\_\_\_\_\_.



Creekside Events

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor  
Creekside Christian Church

## LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of Week of May 2-8, 2021

# The Church IGNITED

Relational Strain & the Holy Spirit - Acts 15:36 - 41

### PRAYER

Take a few moments to check in with your group. Take this time to pray and celebrate any news of joy this week!

### MY STORY

When your family can't decide on a place to eat for dinner, do you have a method of making a final decision that compromises everyone's choices? Or do you give in to the craving of a specific person or majority vote?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 **Read Acts 15:36.** Paul and Barnabas made the decision to follow-up and visit the churches they had previously helped start. They intentionally wanted to check-in on the people they had led to faith in Christ (even in the cities they were persecuted!). Why is it important to stay connected with people when they first come to faith in Christ?
- 2 **Read Acts 15:37-39.** Paul and Barnabas had a sharp dispute about bringing John Mark along with them on their second missionary journey. On their previous journey, John Mark left the missionary team and returned home for a reason we are not told (Acts 13:13). Compare and contrast reasons why Paul would be wary of bringing him along again, while Barnabas would want to give him a second chance.

<b>Paul</b>	<b>Barnabas</b>
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- 3 Barnabas' name means "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36) and he was John Mark's relative (Colossians 4:10). Knowing that Barnabas was a natural encourager and that John Mark was his cousin, how could these factors have potentially helped John Mark, as well as potentially hurt the planned missionary journey?

### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

- 4 This story is a classic example of choosing the individual over the mission, or choosing the mission over the individual. Who do you think was "more correct" in this situation... Paul or Barnabas? Why?
- 5 What do you do when two Christians believe the Holy Spirit is leading them in different directions and they can't agree on the same conclusion?
- 6 How do you think John Mark felt about the second chance opportunity that Barnabas was giving him? How do you think he felt about Paul's caution about him? What lessons do you think he learned from this painful experience?

### TAKING IT HOME

- 7 A common maxim is that "*the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior.*" But that doesn't leave much room (or hope) for people changing and/or growing up! If you were in John Mark's sandals, how would you have sought to demonstrate to Paul that you had learned from your past mistakes?
- 8 Even when the Lord forgives us for past mistakes, we generally have to face the earthly consequences for our errors and need to assume responsibility for them. Can you think of any illustrations of this principle and how it contributes to personal growth?
- 9 **Read Acts 15:39-41.** Neither Paul nor Barnabas were willing to change their opinion about John Mark. This disagreement led to the formation of two missionary teams. When conflicts arise within the local church (or between believers), how should that impact our engagement with the Great Commission? (You might want to check out Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8.)

### PRAYING TOGETHER

As you end our time together, pray for greater wisdom, grace and humility when you face times of disagreements with others. Pray that you would never lose sight of your call to be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.