

The background features a collage of old, sepia-toned maps. Overlaid on these maps is a network of thin white lines connecting various blue and white circular nodes, creating a web-like pattern across the entire image. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and earthy browns.

human failure, divine sovereignty

A C T S 1 5 : 3 6 - 4 1



THE FAILURE OF BARNABAS

STRENGTHS

It's a good thing to encourage those who've failed.

It's a good thing to advocate on behalf of those who've failed.

When we mis-order our loves by loving people over loving God, we love neither.

WEAKNESSES

Sometimes, encouragement can ignore the damage of sin.

Sometimes, the ones we advocate for aren't ready.

THE FAILURE OF PAUL

STRENGTHS

It's a good thing to have zeal for the Lord's work.

It's a good thing to hold Christians to a biblical standard.

WEAKNESSES

Sometimes, zeal for work replaces zeal for people.

Sometimes, we hold Christians to extra-biblical standards.

When we forget that we love God by loving His people, we love neither.

THE FAILURE OF UNGODLY DISAGREEMENT

If you want to disagree like Paul and Baranabas...

- 1. Lead with emotion.**
- 2. Don't pray.**
- 3. Don't consult Scripture.**
- 4. Don't seek wisdom from others.**
- 5. Don't remember past love.**

**Do not allow disagreements of
“how” blot out the unity of “why”.**

THE SUCCESS OF CHRIST'S SOVEREIGNTY

**Despite the immense failure of
Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark...**

- 1. The Gospel mission was multiplied.**
- 2. The Church was strengthened.**
- 3. Scriptures were written.**
- 4. Relationships were restored.**
- 5. God was glorified.**

**Do not allow your failures to distract you
from the success of the cross.**

THREE WARNINGS

1. Every strength is a potential weakness when it strays from the whole counsel of Scripture.
2. Your pastors, teachers, and mentors are humans who can and will fail you.
3. Just because God *can* pull success from our failure doesn't mean He *will*.

THREE ENCOURAGEMENTS

1. God gave you your strengths for His Kingdom.
2. The wise, godly people around you were placed there by God for your enrichment.
3. Your failure doesn't define you, Christ's cross does.

