

Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 15:36-41

For Sunday August 21, 2022

Acts 15:36-41 (ESV)

Paul and Barnabas Separate

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

1. In this passage a new controversy arises. How is it different from the circumcision controversy earlier in Acts 15?

2. In verse 36, where did Paul want to go? Who did Barnabas want to bring along?

3. Who did Barnabas take and where did they go? Who did Paul take and where did they go?

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4. With one important dispute resolved earlier in Acts 15, Luke ironically follows with a more personal difference of opinion that is not settled. Nonetheless, what good seems to come out of Paul and Barnabas splitting up?

5. Looking back over all of Acts 15 what keys ideas do you see that could help in dealing with disagreements among Christians?

6. How might these key ideas be applied to disagreements among believers you are facing now?