



SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placiritachurch.com
Listen to sermon audio at www.placiritachurch.com

Church Fights

Acts 15:36-41

I. The Seriousness of Discipleship (v. 36)

A. A deep desire to get _____ on the mission field (v. 36a)
[Acts 15:28-29; Rom. 11:13; 1 Cor. 9:16; Rom. 15:24, 28; Acts 24:16;
2 Cor. 3:18]

B. A focus on visitation and _____ (v. 36b)
[Matt. 28:19-20; Phil. 1:8; Eph. 4:12; 1 Thes. 2:8, 17; Col. 1:28]

II. The Sharp Disagreement (vv. 37-39b)

A. The _____ (vv. 37-38)
[Acts 13:13-14; Col. 4:10; Acts 4:36]

B. The _____ (v. 39a)
[Deut. 29:28; Jer. 32:37; Prov. 13:10]

C. The _____ (v. 39b)
[Matt. 1:19; Rev. 6:14; Acts 9:15-16; 15:40]

III. The Sovereign Development (vv. 39c-41)

A. Barnabas and _____ go to Cyprus (v. 39c)
[Acts 4:36-37; 13:4-6; 1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:13]

B. Paul and _____ go to Syria and Cilicia (vv. 40-41)
[Acts 15:22, 32; 16:37; 2 Cor. 3:5]

TAKE HOME: HOW CAN WE HONOR GOD IN A SHARP DISAGREEMENT?

- When involved in a dispute, pray for the _____ to see both sides rather than just your own.
- When both sides of an issue have reasonable support, seek a wise _____.
- If a conflict persists, don't give up; stay at it to _____ it, if at all possible.

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placertachurch.com.

1. Read Acts 15:36. What do you think was motivating Paul to get back out on the mission field? (Acts 15:28-29; Rom. 11:13; 1 Cor. 9:16; Rom. 15:24, 28; Acts 24:16; 2 Cor. 3:18) What motivates you to share Christ with others? Are we ever really off the mission field?

2. Why was it so important for Paul to want to go back and visit the churches that he helped plant? What’s more important—evangelism or discipleship? (Matt. 28:19-20; Phil. 1:8; Eph. 4:12; 1 Thes. 2:8, 17; Col. 1:28)

3. Read Acts 15:37-38. What was the problem? What are some principles to think through when making a decision like this? (Acts 13:13-14; Col. 4:10; Acts 4:36)

4. Read Acts 15:39a. What was the sharp disagreement? Have you ever been in a situation like this or something similar where you had a sharp disagreement with another believer? How did you respond?

5. Read Acts 15:39b. Who was John Mark? What else do we know about him from Scripture? What can we learn from his failure and his faithfulness? (Matt. 1:19; Rev. 6:14; Acts 9:15-16; 15:40)

6. Read Acts 15:39c-41. How did God’s sovereign development bring something good from something bad? (Acts 4:36-37; 13:4-6; 1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:13)

7. Read the take home points. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How will you seek to apply these principles in your church fight?

“Here are two dedicated men who had just helped bring unity to the church, and yet they could not settle their own disagreements! Disturbing and painful as these conflicts are, they are often found in church history; and yet God is able to over-rule them and accomplish His purposes.”

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*