

# A Difference of Opinion

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Acts 15:36-40,** "And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God."

Opinions, everybody has one, and in some groups each one may be different. Usually a discussion is held and a plan is made with everyone agreeing with it. At other times there may be an argument with no agreement reached. This is sad for often it brings about hard feeling and more troubles. We know that even among the believers in Jesus, there are times when a conflict arises because of a difference of opinions.

In our scripture we see that even such good men as Paul and Barnabas had a difference of opinion.

Although there was so much that they agreed on, the question of Mark going on a journey with them sparked a heated debate. Paul said no, but Barnabas wanted to take him along even though he had left them during an earlier trip. Evidently Paul saw no point in taking someone along who had failed them before. He was serious about his work and had little time for someone who couldn't be trusted to fulfill his duty.

Barnabas was more patient and thought that Mark needed a second chance and encouragement, not rejection. It turned out that he was right for while Mark left them on his first trip, he became a valued member of their team. 2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. Paul was to see that he was wrong about Mark and they became laborers together in the Lord's work.

There will be times when the best of people will have opposing ideas. It will happen at work, at home, or even in church. Just because there is a difference of opinion doesn't mean that there will be anger and hate. Sometimes we need to take time to think about the subject and to consider the other person's thoughts. Our thoughts on a subject are not always the best ones.

Just because someone doesn't agree with us doesn't

mean that they don't like us. I know that at times people take a rejection of their ideas as a personal attack on themselves. Maybe it is caused by pride, or the person is insecure about himself.

Consider this for a moment. Paul was a great man, a good man who served God with all his energy and power. It should go without saying that he was well educated and a very intelligent person. Still he was not right about everything that came up in his daily life. He had such a heated debate with a dear friend, Barnabas, over Mark, that he parted ways with him. Paul had made the decision to not waste any more time with Mark, judging him to be undependable.

Barnabas thought that Mark would be a great help, even though he had failed in his first attempt to minister with them. If Mark had been rejected by Paul and Barnabas, there would have been a good worker for Jesus who might have given up and never served at all. As it was he became a good witness for the Lord and even Paul came to value his service in later years.

One thing that I get from this is that no matter how passionate we may be about our decisions in a matter, we may be wrong. How many of us have failed in our lives in some matter, or another? With mercy, love, and forgiveness, along with help from God, and man, a person can become useful in the Lord's service.

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SOLOMON WAS KING DAVID'S YOUNGEST SON, THE CHILD OF DAVID'S OLD AGE. THE YEARNINGS OF THIS WARLIKE KING FOR FUTURE YEARS OF PEACE WERE EXPRESSED IN THE NAME THAT DAVID BESTOWED UPON THIS NEWBORN INFANT - SOLOMON=THE PEACEFUL ONE! AND NATHAN, THE HIGH PRIEST, WENT DAVID ONE BETTER, CALLING THE INFANT SOLOMON, JEDIDIAH=DARLING OF THE LORD! (I SAM. 12:24,25) SOLOMON, BY THE WAY, WAS PLACED UNDER NATHAN'S CARE FROM HIS EARLIEST INFANCY. AT THIS TIME THERE WAS NO INTENT ON DAVID'S PART TO MAKE SOLOMON HIS HEIR - AFTER ALL, ABSALOM WAS KING DAVID'S FAVORITE SON AND LOOKED ON BY THE PEOPLE AS THE DESTINED SUCCESSOR (I SAM. 15:1-6) BUT ON THE DEATH OF ABSALOM, WHEN SOLOMON WAS 10 YEARS OLD, DAVID PLEDGED HIS WORD, IN SECRET TO BATH-SHEBA, HIS MOTHER, THAT SOLOMON, AND NO OTHER, SHOULD BE THE HEIR TO THE THRONE (I KINGS 1:13) AND TRULY, SOLOMON WAS THE ONLY KING TO REIGN FOR FORTY YEARS IN UTTER, PEACEFUL PROSPERITY!



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