

“When Brothers Part Ways”

Acts 15:30-s41, ESV

Introduction: The Apostles were not perfect. Certainly, they are worthy models for our careful consideration, but these men were far from faultless in every circumstance. Though we would consider the Apostles to be heroes of the faith, they had warts, failures, weaknesses, and sins of all sorts.

Keys to This Text:

1). Positives (v. 30-35).

The people rejoiced because the letter was full of encouragement (v. 31).

2). Personalities (v. 36-37).

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark. Paul did not want to take John Mark. Why?

3). Problems (v. 38-39).

A sharp disagreement rose between Paul and Barnabas.

Paul does, however, later speak fondly of both men in his letters.

Who was right?

4). Providence (v. 40-41).

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed to Cyprus (v. 39).

Paul chose Silas and they went through Syria and Cilicia strengthening the churches (v. 40-41).

Conclusion:

In the providence of God, there was now two missionary parties doing the Lord's work. God is able to overrule conflicts within the body of Christ and accomplish His purposes.