Follow Me As I Follow Christ - A Journey with Paul

“The Day Two Missionaries Disagreed”        David Owens
Scripture Reading: Col. 3:12-14; Sermon covers: Acts 15:35-41     7.3.16

Introduction:

A. Don’t you wish ________ resolution was as easy as the boys in the opening story?
B. God doesn’t want His people to be characterized by conflict and ____________.
C. God wants His people to be characterized by _________ and ___________ (Jn. 17).
D. When God paints portraits of His servants in the Scriptures, He resists airbrushing away all the ________ and ____________.

I. The Story—Acts 15:35-41

A. During a lengthy rest-and-recovery period after the first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas were summoned to Jerusalem for the Jerusalem ________.
B. It was decided that Gentiles would not be required to be ___________ and follow the ________.
C. ________ suggested that they return to the places they had visited on their first missionary journey.
D. The idea of going on the trip wasn’t the problem, their conflict was about _______ would ______________ them.
E. Things to remember in disagreements:
   1. In every disagreement, there may be one _________, but there can be several ______________.
   2. In most disagreements, each side has ______________.
   3. In heated disagreements, someone usually gets ____________.
F. Let’s try to be ____________ and understand both sides of the conflict between Paul and Barnabas.
G. The story ends with the pair who just two chapters ago enjoyed the pleasure of partnership, have now __________ ways and headed in __________ directions.
H. I wish the conflict had ended differently, because it feels like a victory for ________.
I. However, I’m encouraged by the fact that though Satan may __________, God can ____________.

II. The Application

A. Strategies to employ in a disagreement:
   1. When in a disagreement, work hard to see the other _________ of ________.
   2. When both sides have validity, seek a wise ______________.
   3. When conflict persists, care enough to _______ it through rather than ________ out.
   4. When it cannot be resolved, graciously agree to ___________ with being ______________.