

# CONFLICT: MAKING US BETTER RATHER THAN BITTER

ACTS 15:36-41  
PEW BIBLE PAGE #1149

- Disagreements are inevitable! Why is this?
  - ⇒ First, because we are all made of sinful \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ⇒ Second, because we are all so \_\_\_\_\_.
- Here in our text, two very good men had a serious disagreement.
- There are some extremely helpful principles that we learn from this text that will help us to not only survive conflict, but become better through it.

## First, conflict is inevitable, even among \_\_\_\_\_.

- Sadly, we never outgrow our tendency to be in conflict with one another.
- Not \_\_\_\_\_ conflict is an issue of right or wrong. Godly, mature believers can disagree.

## Second, conflict should not cause us to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Satan desires to exploit conflict in our lives by getting us to overreact and quit in our service for God.
- The Bible teaches that we must have an attitude of perseverance.
- *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."* **2 Timothy 2:3**
- *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* **Galatians 6:9**

**Third, conflict should cause us to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- When you are faced with a conflict or disagreement with another believer, you have a clear choice:
  - ⇒ You can allow the conflict to make you \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ⇒ You can allow the conflict to make you \_\_\_\_\_.
- *"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."* **2 Timothy 4:11**
- When conflict comes into our lives, it does not have to destroy us. In fact, God can use it to \_\_\_\_\_ us to grow and mature in our faith.

**Fourth, conflict can lead to \_\_\_\_\_ productivity.**

- Satan's plan backfired.
- Now instead of one missionary team, there were two! God used this separation of Paul and Barnabas to multiply the \_\_\_\_\_!
- There are two major reasons why this conflict led to greater productivity in the cause of Christ:
  - ⇒ They did not \_\_\_\_\_ their disagreement.
  - ⇒ They did not \_\_\_\_\_ their disagreement.
- Because of the way these two men handled their disagreement, the work of Christ was multiplied and was not hindered.

- Ask yourself when going through conflict, "How can God use this to make me more Christ-like? What areas do I need to \_\_\_\_\_ in?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ can make you better rather than bitter!