

A Difference of Opinion

Acts 15.36-41

1. Two Great Personalities

- **Paul: ex-hardliner** Gal 1.13-14;
persecutor turned missionary
Acts 22.3-4; 26.9-11; 1 Tim 1.13
- **Barnabas: priestly connections**
wealthy but generous 4.36-37
encourager 11.22-26

2. Two Conflicting Proposals

- **Paul: revisit the churches v36**
had his letter worked?
Gal 3.2,5; 5,6,16,18,22,1
3.1,3; 4.11
convert and consolidate
- **Barnabas: reinstate a colleague v37**
a former deserter 13.13
give failures a second chance
Mat 12.20; 1 Tim 3.9-10; John 21.15-17

3. Two Contrasting People

- **Paul: pioneering Phil 3.13-14**
goal orientated Rom 15.20
be strong! 1 Cor 16.13;
Eph 6.10; 2 Tim 2.1
- **Barnabas: empathiser 9.26-28**
alongside, not out in front
achievers, affiliators, influencers
goals people.... power
churches or a cousin?
no room for wobblers Gal 2.13

4. Two Complementary Programmes

- **Barnabas: nurtured Mark**
Phm 24; Col 4.10; 2 Tim 4.11;
1 Pet 5.13
- **Paul: broke new ground v22,32,41**
unity is good Eph 4.3
division isn't always bad
disagreements must be amicable