

## “Growing Through Disagreements”

Pastor Jon Hori

Acts 15:32-41

January 25, 2009

**Main Idea:** Personal disagreements are opportunities to grow in the experience and expression of God’s grace.

### I. Disagreements are Inevitable

A. Because of personal sin (Matt. 7:3-5)

B. Because of miscommunication (James 1:18)

C. Because of personality differences (Paul and Barnabas)

### II. Disagreements are Opportunities for God’s Purposes

A. God works out all things for His good (Rom. 8:28)

B. Sometimes, it diversifies and expands ministry

### III. Disagreements should not be Permanent

A. Paul and Barnabas’ example (2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:13)

B. Because we are forgiven by Christ (Col. 3:12-1; Cor. 5:18)

C. Because love is our primary motive (Col. 3:14; 1 Pet. 4:8)

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## Digging Deeper

1. Read Acts 15:32-41 together as a group. What was Paul and Barnabas' arguing about? Why was the argument so "heated"?
2. **Group Exercise:** Split the Bridge into two groups that represent each side of the argument. Have each group work together to prepare the reasons for their side of the argument. Have each group appoint a spokesperson to present their group's point. Follow the rules for debate given to the Bridge leaders.
3. How did the exercise give you further insight into Acts 15:32-41? What did it teach you about disagreements in general?
4. Are you more like Paul (task-oriented) or Barnabas (relational)? How does this affect your personal relationships?
5. How does Matt. 7:3-5 and James 1:19 help us to humbly analyze our personal disagreements and respond appropriately?

## Living it Out

1. Share about a personal disagreement that you currently have or about one that has been left unresolved in the past. Spend time with your smaller group analyzing the root of the conflict (i.e. your sin, their sin, personality differences, lack of communication, etc.)
2. How can Romans 8:28 encourage you in this situation? How can this disagreement be an opportunity for personal growth in experiencing and expressing God's grace?
3. What is one thing that you can personally commit to doing that will encourage reconciliation?
4. Pray with one another over this situation.

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