

Making a Difference in 2012
Part 4: Reconciliation
Acts 15:36-41

What causes division in our relationships?

Unclear Communication

+ **Unmet Expectation**

+ **Unreliable Action**

= **Unhappy Relationship**

How can our relationships be restored?

It Requires...

1. A Surrender

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him... .

Acts 15:36-38

➤ Holding onto a **grudge** only helps the devil and hurts yourself.

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. ... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31

2. A Sacrifice

They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.
Acts 15:39

- It's not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (see also 1 Corinthians 13)

3. A Second Chance

Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.
Acts 15:39-41

- Because Barnabas was willing to give Mark a second chance, Mark was able to grow more spiritually mature. Eventually, Paul gave Mark a second chance, too (Philemon 23-24; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11).
- It's never easy to surrender our hurt, sacrifice our pride, and give others a second chance. But reconciliation is one of the most Christ-like qualities we could ever attain.