**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. September 17, 2017**

**How To Disagree Without Becoming Disagreeable?**

ACTS 15:36-41, ACTS 16:1-5

**Key Truth:** Conflict in church provides the opportunity to grow in spiritual maturity and embrace the Lord’s will.

**What Happened:**

1. The disagreement wasn’t about doctrine but personal

 preference.

2. The disagreement was handled in a mature manner.

**The Practical Ministry Applications:**

1. Every ministry isn’t for everybody.

2. Having spiritual standards is good for ministry

 success.

 A. Paul knew what characteristics would be needed for this

 ministry assignment and wouldn’t budge on his

 convictions.

3. Ministry failure doesn’t have to be your final destination.

4. Everyone needs a Barnabas.

 A. Barnabas had a readiness to forgive. ACTS 9:26-27,

 B. Barnabas had spiritual discernment to see the anointing

 in others.

5. Barnabas and Paul were good spiritual mentors. ACTS 16:1-5

 A. God calls us to invest in each other even though risks are

 associated with it.

6. Resolving conflict doesn’t mean we have to win the argument.

**How to separate when you cannot agree:**

1. Gracefully

2. Peacefully

3. Humbly

 A. Refuse to become an assassin of someone’s character.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Resolve disagreements quickly and live at peace with others.

**Food For Thought**

For the Week of September 17, 2017

This week we kick off our Fall Connection Group Quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner; time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Connection Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week’s meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group.

Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. Who do you think was right in the argument between Paul and Barnabas?

3. How did God work in Paul and Barnabas’s separate missionary journeys?

4. What does this passage teach us about restoring people to ministry despite their past failures?

5. Read ACTS 15:40: What roles if any did the church play in the dispute between Paul and Barnabas?