

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:5-8

**Conflict and Confrontation—Paul and Barnabas, and Euodia and Syntyche
Acts 15:36-41; Philippians 2:1-8; Philippians 4:1-9**

- I. **Division and the Grace of God’s Design—Acts 15:36-41**
- II. **Dissension and the Perfection of God’s Son—Philippians 2:1-8; 4:1-8**

Questions for Discussion

1. Think about the disagreement between Barnabas and Paul. Why did Barnabas want to take Mark with them on their mission trip? What were his motives? Why was Paul against taking Mark? What were his reasons? How are all these motives like those in conflict situations today?
2. What was the common motive of Barnabas and Paul? What do you learn about God and about the Christian life from this story? Is the resolution of this disagreement always the answer for conflicts among Christians? What are some universal principles for this kind of conflict among Christians?
3. What did Paul mean when he wrote to the Philippians, “in humility count others more significant than yourselves?” (Philippians 2:3) How might this apply to situations in your life or to avoid conflicts in general?
4. What did Paul say about Euodia and Syntyche in verse 3? What does that tell you about them? What did he “entreat” them to do? Why was this so important? Since they obviously thought differently, how could they follow Paul’s direction? Look back at chapter 2, verses 1 and 2, as well as verse 5.
5. What help was Paul seeking to provide for Euodia and Syntyche? What was his intent for the whole community? What does this say to us?
6. How might the imperatives Paul gave in verses 4-9 apply to situations of tension or conflict today? What great promise concludes this section?
7. What direction, challenge or encouragement will you take away from these passages?

Next week: Catastrophe and Consolation—Jesus, Martha, and Mary—John 11:1-44; 20:1-10

Speaking in the assurance of Christ’s resurrection power

What does Christ’s power over death mean for the way you face trouble and the words you speak to others in grief or crisis?