



RESILIENT

Part 2 - Sparring a Few Rounds

The prevalent “cancel culture” often denies individuals the chance for growth, redemption, and forgiveness. How is this mirrored within the church community? Discuss the consequences of such actions within the church.

Have there been beliefs you once held true but have since reconsidered? Have conflicts ever led you to question the faith or integrity of another believer? How does maturity and spiritual growth in fellow believers’ influence patience during disputes? How does knowing that we’ll share eternity with the very believers we occasionally clash shape your viewpoint?

Reading: Acts 15:5-12, 25-26

Do we ever risk imposing our personal beliefs on another believer in ways God might not have intended? Did the shared divine missions foster a unique bond between Paul and Barnabas?

Reading: Acts 15:35-41

Was Paul justified in his stance on John Mark’s desertion? Was Barnabas justified in the belief that John Mark’s willingness to go warranted grace and forgiveness? Did Paul and Barnabas promote the same gospel? How could they concur on many issues yet sharply diverge on others? What was the aftermath of this disagreement?

Ted distinguished between individuals driven by mission versus those driven by relationships. Which categories do Paul and Barnabas fit into? Which resonates more with you? How might we balance potential conflicts between these two dispositions?

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:11

Do you find disputes push you away from others? Why might such an approach be detrimental? What proactive measures can be employed to prevent unnecessary distancing or abandonment of those we have disagreements with?

Reading: Romans 14:4

When is it suitable to establish boundaries to safeguard our faith without inadvertently excluding genuine believers? Where have you placed such boundaries, and do they need repositioning?

Ted underscored that disagreement doesn’t equate to the other individual being toxic or abusive. Have you ever found yourself unjustly categorizing those you differ with? How do you characterize a “toxic” individual? In moments overwhelmed by disputes, have you felt as though everyone opposes you? What is the potential ripple effect on other relationships in your life?