

Memory Verse

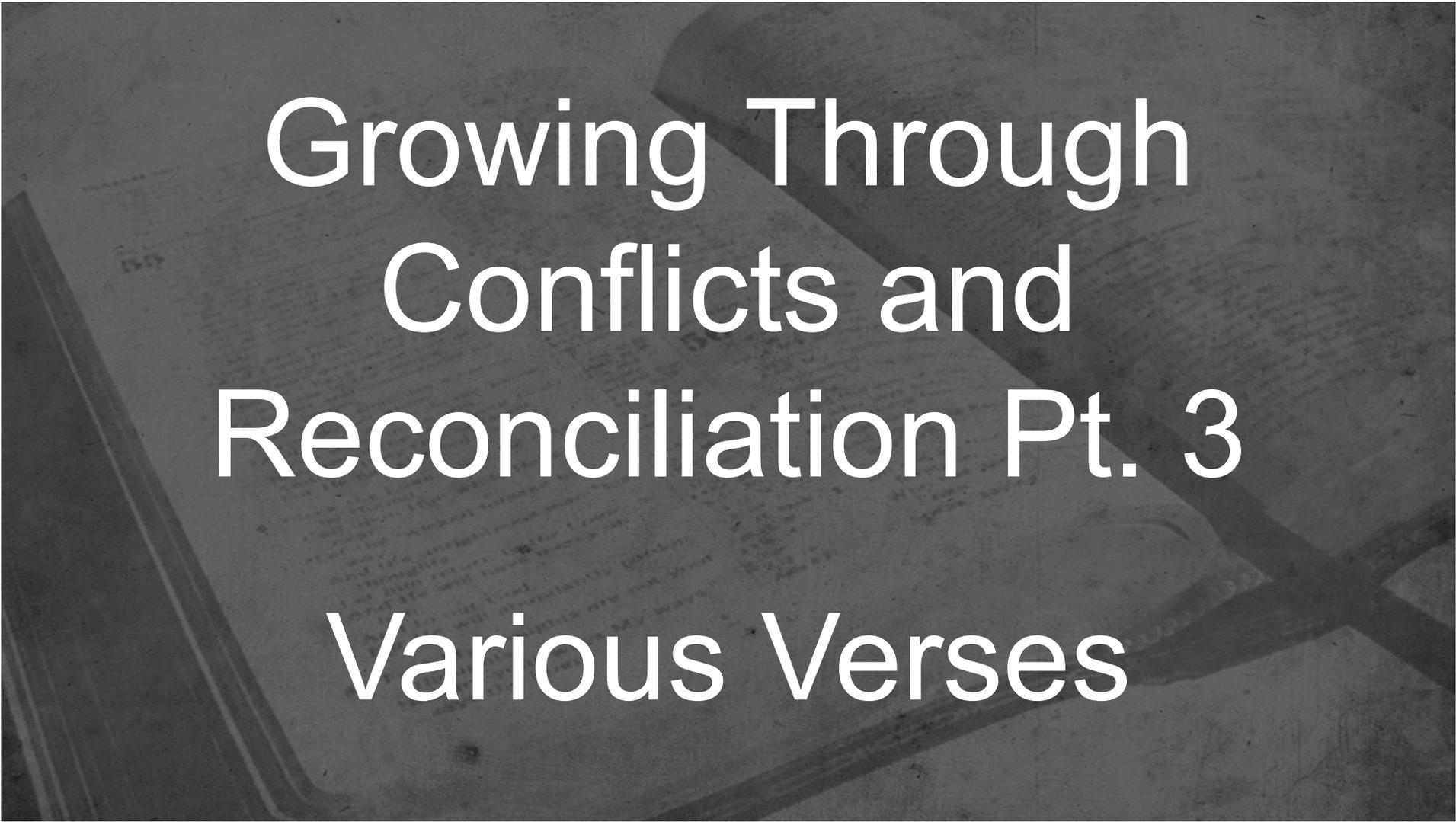
Romans 12:18

**If possible, so far as it depends on you, live
peaceably with all.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



Growing Through
Conflicts and
Reconciliation Pt. 3
Various Verses

We defined conflict, described some *causes of* and *personalities within* conflict and ended with principles from *Philippians 2* about the mindset we should have within conflict. In **part 2** - we *cannot escape conflict*. We touched on principles based on Jesus teaching about what we need to do if someone has something against us: **Go to that person and make it right**. We looked principles about you sinning against someone: **Go to that person and make it right**.

We looked at *Galatians 6* and the **purpose** of *confrontation*. *The goal of confrontation is not the humiliation of someone, but reconciliation with someone.*

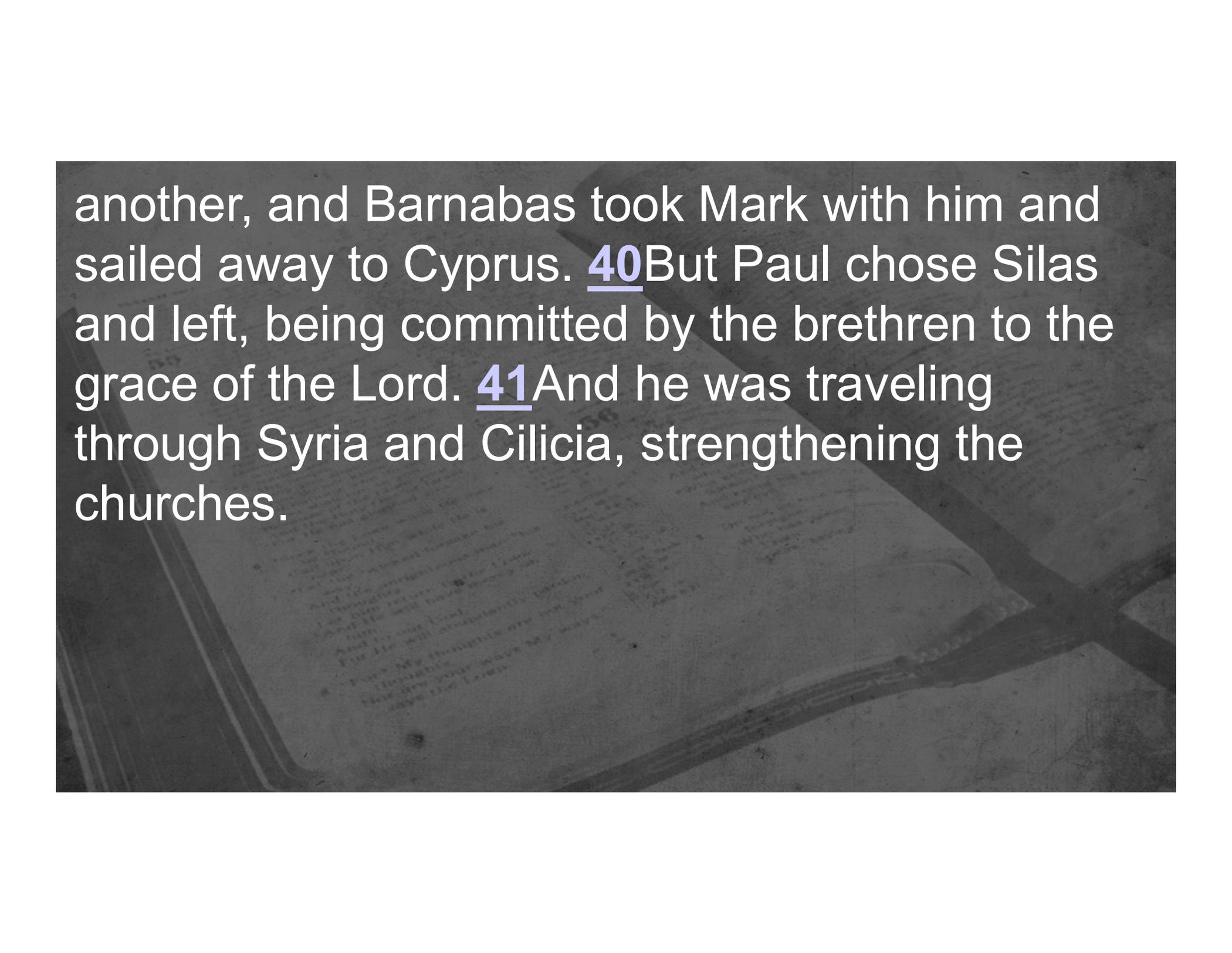
Last, we looked at 3 principles from *James 1:19-20* about our response if we are confronted. We are to ***listen***, ***not get defensive*** and ***be careful of anger***.

One conflict is in *Acts 15*, the second is in *Galatians 2*, and then our text for Christian character is in *Romans 12*.

First, *Acts 15*. The first section revolves around what *Jews who had trusted in Messiah* were to do with *Gentiles who trusted in Messiah*, and if Gentiles had to follow the Mosaic Law.

In the second section, we find the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey...

Acts 15:36-41 - After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one

The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale image of an open book. The pages are filled with text, which is mostly illegible due to the low contrast and blurring. The book is open, showing two pages. The text on the pages appears to be a mix of English and possibly another language, with some words like 'And the will of the Lord' and 'My thoughts are not your thoughts' being partially visible. The overall tone is somber and scholarly.

another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. 41And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

A. Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas

On Paul's *first missionary journey*, Barnabas and Paul were teammates. They took John Mark, stated in *Acts 13:5*. However in *Acts 13:13*, John Mark left and went to Jerusalem. Perhaps the situation with the *false prophet and magician, or the occult, scared him*. Maybe something else came up?

A. Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas

Paul wanted to go on a *second trip* and *asked Barnabas to go*. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. We find Paul's perspective of Mark's leaving – *desertion*. But Barnabas wanted to bring him, partly because *they were cousins*. They could **not agree** and a "*sharp disagreement*" occurred. This is one word in Greek, and is a **very strong word!** This word is only used 2 times in the New Testament.

A. Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas

It means “a provocation which literally jabs (cuts) someone so they *“must”* respond.” Here, it carries with it the idea of *passion*, and *violent anger*. We could say, a *shouting match*! This division was so pronounced and so sharp, they separated from each other.

A. Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas

The fight was intense. They separated, but later, God used Mark in a mighty way. He wrote the Gospel of Mark! At the end of Paul's life, about 67AD, he asks for Mark. *2 Timothy 4:11*, *Colossians 4:10*. Somehow, Mark was reconciled to Paul. No text says Paul and Barnabas served the Lord together, but in *1 Corinthians 9:6*, written about 54AD, Paul refers to Barnabas working in mission work.

B. Galatians 2:11-16 – Paul and Peter

For Paul, *Biblical and gospel issues* were of the **utmost importance**. There can be **no compromise!** Some say this was before or at the time of *Acts 15:1-2*. We are *not given a specific date*, so you can study that more.

What is the situation described in *Galatians 2*?



B. Galatians 2:11-16 – Paul and Peter

Because Peter was a major leader in the early Assembly, his *actions negatively influenced others, so they too left eating with the Gentiles*. This communicated that Gentiles had to become Jews in order to be accepted. That was **false!** Paul would have none of this and *confronted Peter publicly*, who was condemned by his actions and hypocrisy. Paul **rebuked** him!

B. Galatians 2:11-16 – Paul and Peter

He *asked Peter* how he could compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews. Paul is not insulting the Gentiles in *verse 15*, but reminding Peter that Gentiles cannot follow the Law of God. **They never had it!** To *expect them* to live up to the Law is something unbiblical, and even as a Jew, he could not keep the Law perfectly.

Verse 16...

C. Romans 12:1-18 – Christian Character

After 11 chapters of doctrine, Paul gets to the living out section of *Romans*. After everything he wrote, he says to *voluntarily, because of God's grace, offer your bodies a living sacrifice and don't be conformed to this world, but transformed by renewing your mind*. How, through **living out the truth!** When we offer ourselves to God, then we are able to have the character Paul exhorts Christians to have starting in *verse 3*.

C. *Romans 12:1-18* – Christian Character

He starts with *humility* and *sound judgment*, or *discernment*. Verses 4-8 talk about spiritual gifts. All of us have been gifted by God to serve Him in the body of Christ. *Everyone* should have the **desire and opportunity** to *serve as they are gifted to do so*.

C. Romans 12:1-18 – Christian Character

In verses 9-18, he goes through a *long list of character qualities* we are to **have and strive for** as Christians. Love genuinely, hate evil, cling to the good, be devoted to each other in brotherly love, and preferring one another diligently. The idea is a *contest to see who can outdo others in serving each other and serving the Lord.*

C. *Romans 12:1-18* – Christian Character

Rejoice in hope, persevere through problems, be devoted to prayer and provide for the needs of others and be hospitable. He then turns to how to respond to those who hate you: bless them, do not curse them, and also rejoice with those who rejoice and cry with those who cry.

C. Romans 12:1-18 – Christian Character

Verse 16 – be of the same mind, do not be arrogant, but spend time with those who are lowly, and don't be wise in your own eyes – be *humble*. Don't take vengeance and respect what is right and *as much as you can* and *as best as you can, be at peace with everyone*.