

# Acts 15:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

## Analysis

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The 'contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder.' The Greek 'paroxysmos' (sharp disagreement) describes intense conflict. Even godly leaders can disagree strongly. Rather than force artificial unity, they separated into two missionary teams, doubling their gospel impact. God's sovereignty turns human conflict into kingdom advance.

## Historical Context

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This separation (circa AD 50) was painful but providential. Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus while Paul chose Silas for Asia Minor and Europe, effectively doubling the missionary enterprise.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How can God use even conflicts among believers for His purposes?
2. What does this teach about disagreements among godly people?

3. How should we respond when we cannot resolve differences with other Christians?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγένετο	οὕν	παροξυσμὸς	ὥστε	ἀποχωρισθῆναι	αὐτοὺς
was	And	so sharp between them	that	they departed asunder	G846
G1096	G3767	G3948	G5620	G673	
ἅπ'	ἀλλήλων	τόν	τε	Βαρναβᾶν	παραλαβόντα
one from the other	G240	G3588	and so	Barnabas	took
G575			G5037	G921	G3880
τὸν	Μάρκον	ἐκπλεῦσαι	εἰς	Κύπρον	
G3588	Mark	and sailed	unto	Cyprus	
	G3138	G1602	G1519	G2954	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Colossians 4:10** (Parallel theme): Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

**James 3:2** (Parallel theme): For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

**Acts 4:36** (Parallel theme): And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** (Parallel theme): For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.