

**Encouraged by a Ministry of  
Reconciliation—Standing  
Against Failure**



# Introduction

- **What do we do when we disagree in the church?**
- **How many churches have been planted and started because of disagreements?!**
- **Is our Christian unity strong enough to handle disagreements?**



# Introduction

- **Will we always agree how to go about the work of the Lord?**
- **What do we do about those who let us down in the work?**
- **Let us take a glimpse at a small episode in the life of Barnabas that was HUGE in the early church!**



# WHEN WE PART COMPANY

- **Acts 15:37-39**
- **Easy to miss this significant event**
- **Paul's reaction**
- **John Mark's earlier departure**
- **Sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas**



# **FAILURE IN THE CHURCH**

- **Moots laments the contemporary church setting**
- **Isn't that what grace is?!**
- **The failure of the faithful**
- **A strong word of caution today**
- **Do we really want to be right with God?**



# **RECONCILIATION AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Reconciliation always paired**
- **A strong belief that God can**
- **Interesting how Christ worked in Paul's life**
- **Paul's radical reorientation**
- **John 21—Peter was forgiven**
- **Story of a Christian**



# RECONCILIATION AS BASIS FOR HEALING

- Idea of reconciliation is to bring relationships back to harmony and forgiveness.
- This kind of action is healing.
- Think of how many movies, theater plays, novels, etc., use this theme
- A prayer for healing and reconciliation



# OUR MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

- **Cause of our mutual rejoicing,  
Romans 5:11**
- **God reconciled us through Christ,  
2 Corinthians 5:18**
- **God has also given us a message,  
2 Corinthians 5:19**





# Ten Guidelines for Those Hesitant to Reconcile

1. Be honest about your motives
2. Be humble in your attitude
3. Be prayerful about the one who hurt you
4. Be willing to admit ways you might have contributed to the problem
5. Be honest with the offender



# **Ten Guidelines for Those Hesitant to Reconcile**

- 6. Be objective about your hesitancy**
- 7. Be clear about the guidelines for restoration**
- 8. Be alert to Satan's schemes**
- 9. Be mindful of God's control**
- 10. Be realistic about the process**

