

Making Disciples

Acts 16:1-5

PART TWO

Introduction

At least the “sharp disagreement” resulted in two missionary teams and more men being developed.

Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." v36

Despite all the risks to his life, Paul was driven by the love of Christ “Let us return...and see how they are”

Timothy joins the team

v1

“a disciple”

Paul saw potential for ministry in Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:5-7

“through the laying of my hands”

2 Timothy 3:14-15

v2 v3

“well spoken of”

1 Timothy 3:2, 7

“Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him”

1 Timothy 1:2

2 Timothy 1:1-4

“Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 4:17

Clearly, Timothy was Paul’s favorite ministry companion. Judging by the depth of his affection for him.

Philippians 2:19-24

Character building is a construction project in which God alone is the Architect. But God works through means.

Paul prohibited **Titus** from being circumcised (Galatians 2:3-5).

The issue with Titus was *justification*. The issue with Timothy was *cooperation*.

In Christ, all religious, racial, and ethnic distinctions are wiped away:

Romans 3:22

Acts 15:9

Romans 10:12

Jewishness no longer defined Paul's identity. His identity was secure in Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Paul mentions the word "win" 5x.

Again, the main driving force for all missionary work is *love*

– a love that respects other people's sensibilities, cultures and traditions, taking them into consideration as a strategy to win them to Christ.

Romans 14:13-15

Ask yourself: "How would I witness Christ..."

† to a Roman Catholic?

† to a Muslim?

† to a JW or a Mormon?

† to an Arminian?

† to a charismatic?

† to someone from NY or LA?

† to someone from the deep south?

† to someone who suffers from some post traumatic event?

† to a homosexual? Or a transexual?

† to a child?

In any and every case, *love* must be the prevailing force that guides us.

It is the wisdom of the mature witness for Christ that knows when to stand firm and when to yield.

v4

"the decisions" ... that man is saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone. But that our conduct should be marked by love, respect and deference.

v5

"strengthened" 'being made solid or firm.'

God does the converting, but we must preach the gospel. He makes the disciples, but we must make the investment and do the work.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2-3