

# How to Head Out After the Fall-Out

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- **God doesn't command Christians to be slaves of injustice; He commands us to be free from unforgiveness**

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.

**Acts 15:36-40**

## As Christians, we must be careful that in walking away, we do not act like the world

- **Leave a church that holds to false teaching or doctrinal corruption**
  - Galatians 1:6-9 – Reject any different gospel preached
  - Romans 16:17 – Avoid those contradicting sound doctrine
  - 2 John 1:10-11 – Do not support false teachers
- **Leave a church where there is unrepentant, normalized sin in leadership**
  - 1 Timothy 3:1-7 – Leaders must meet moral qualifications
  - Titus 1:5-9 – Elders must be above reproach
  - 1 Timothy 5:19-20 – Rebuke sinning leaders publicly
- **Leave a church that has proven patterns of spiritual abuse and protects destructive leadership**
  - 1 Peter 5:2-3 – Shepherd willingly, not domineering authority
  - Matthew 20:25-28 – Lead by serving, not controlling
  - 3 John 9-10 – Reject prideful, controlling church leaders
- **Leave a church where there is irreconcilable division after pursuing peace**
  - Romans 12:18 – Live at peace when possible
  - Matthew 18:15-17 – Follow process for resolving conflict
  - Acts 15:36-41 – Godly leaders separate after sharp disagreement
- **Leave a church that is not committed to spiritually feeding or forming you**
  - Hebrews 5:12-14 – Maturity requires deeper spiritual teaching
  - John 21:15-17 – Shepherds are called to feed sheep
- **Leave a church if you have a clear and confirmed calling elsewhere**
  - Acts 13:1-3 – Sent out by the Holy Spirit
  - Acts 20:22-24 – Compelled by Spirit toward next assignment
  
- **Even in our leaving, we should look like Christ**

## How to leave well

### **SATURATE THE SITUATION IN PRAYER**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**Matthew 5:44-45**

- **If you can pray for them, they can't poison you**

### **CONSULT WISE COUNSEL**

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

**Proverbs 11:14**

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**Proverbs 27:6**

- **There's a difference between involving leaders and informing leaders**

## **DO ALL YOU CAN TO SALVAGE THE RELATIONSHIP**

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

**Hebrews 12:14-15**

- **You don't want to be recklessly escaping, you want to be righteously exiting**

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Matthew 18:15-20**

## **ACT HONORABLY IN THE EXIT**

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”

**Ephesians 4:25-26**

- **You cannot control what they do, but you must control what you do**

## **DON'T RECRUIT OTHERS INTO UNNECESSARY OFFENSE**

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

**Romans 16:17**

- You can tell the truth without tearing others down
- Don't leave well then start slandering

## **DO THE HARD WORK OF HEART-WORK**

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

- **Forgiveness starts as a decision until it manifests as an emotion**

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

**Hebrews 12:15**

- Unforgiven offense leads to future dysfunction = Generational patterns of unresolved issues

## **ALWAYS BE OPEN TO RECONCILIATION**

Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

**1 Corinthians 9:6**

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

**2 Timothy 4:11**