

**Protagonists Anonymous Series**  
**Silas & John Mark**  
**7/18/2020**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

**-Is it possible to walk in disagreement without standing in conflict?**

-Not only do I believe the answer to that question is yes but I also believe Christians should be leading the way!

-And tonight's installment of Protagonists Anonymous (Silas and John Mark) shows us the way!

**Introduction**

**-disagreement = irreconcilable difference, only room for one outcome**

- Favorite player difference reconcilable (preference)
- G.O.A.T difference irreconcilable (competing, no action required)
- Married couple: will we send our kids to school? (competing, action)

**-walk in = our disagreement does not erode our relationship (trust and affection continue while working towards agreement) *either in action or right of opinion***

**-conflict = unyielding, demanding their agreement *(with you)***

**-standing = a diminished or loss of relationship is likely**

-(wisdom...when in conflict, try to move to disagreement first...small steps)

**Silas & John Mark**

**-Acts 15:36-41**

-First Missionary Journey

- 9 separate cities, 4 of which they visited twice
- from 45/46AD to 48AD so 2-3 years
- Syria, to Cyprus, through Turkey and back

- Acts 13:13...the departure
- Silas...a leader in the church of Jerusalem, a prophet (see Acts 15:1-35)
- John Mark...Barnabas' cousin and a young convert to Christianity (Mark 14:51-52)
- Which of the three options would you choose (see above)?

- **Preference**
- **Competing but no action**
- **Competing and action required**

- When did it stop being a disagreement and become a standing conflict?

## **Reconciled**

- with Barnabas...1 Corinthians 9:6/2 Corinthians 8:18-19
- with John Mark...Colossians 4:10/2 Timothy 4:11/Phileman 24
- Why did they reconcile?

- **A sacred purpose - Acts 17:24-27**
- **Christian character - Galatians 5:22-23**
- **Ministry fruit - 1 Corinthians 3:5-15**

- Paul, Silas, and Barnabas are ALL central to the birthing of Christianity!!!!
- John Mark...is actually Mark who gives us one of the 4 gospels!!!

## **Walking Together**

- I think they could have avoided this completely...

- **Mutual Respect - I don't agree with you but I see how you got there.**
- **Self-Awareness - the possibility you might be wrong...are you considering sources that challenge your opinion (5 key capitals: spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial)**

- **Accountability - belonging to a church family where you have both permission giving and pause giving relationships...***if you have a pattern of conflict (churches, friends, neighbors, coworkers) you have a deficit in relational, spiritual, and intellectual capital.*

-(role play how conversation could have gone)

## **Band**

-**Acts 15:1-35** (prior success)

-look at how they were able to peaceably navigate a disagreement, never stopping walking together and coming to agreement in the end...

-AND THEN both Paul and Barnabas ignored all this...the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to place these in the text next to each other for a reason!

## **Close**

-Acts 20:21

- Stopping
- Starting
- Faith in Jesus (are you whole yet)