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When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. **Acts 9:26–27 (NLT)**

Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. **Acts 13:13 (NLT)**

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing.” Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord’s gracious care. Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there. **Acts 15:36–41 (NLT)**

## WHEN CHRISTIANS DON’T SEE EYE TO EYE

### 1. SOMETIMES GODLY PEOPLE WILL DISAGREE

An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars. **Proverbs 18:19 (NLT)**

### 2. DIVERSE PEOPLE REALLY ARE BETTER TOGETHER

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well... **Romans 12:4–6 (NLT)**

### 3. EVERYBODY WINS WHEN THERE’S A RELATIONAL COMEBACK

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. **Matthew 5:23–24 (NIV)**

#### • Practical steps for restoring a damaged friendship

- **Be honest**
  - ...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **1 John 1:7 (NIV)**
- **Be prompt**
  - Jesus: “...leave your gift there...”
- **Be realistic**
  - Make allowance for each other’s faults...  
**Colossians 3:13 a (NLT)**
- **Be forgiving**
  - ...forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.  
**Colossians 3:13b (NLT)**

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 (NIV)**

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

**Ephesians 4:1–3 (NIV)**