

**PEOPLE BE  
CRAZY...**

**...LOVE THEM ANYWAY**

# **The Circumstantial Friend**

## **Peter and Paul: Galatians 2:11-14**

- **They served together**
- **Spoke well of each other in their letters**
- **Held complementary leadership roles**

**But then...there was a problem!**



# How To Love Your Circumstantial Friend

- Have a biblical position, not a personal preference

- Speak the truth in love

**Gal 2:14**

- Keep the right motivation

*Protect the church*

**Gal 2:12**

*Protect vulnerable people*

**Gal 2:13**

- Remind them of the truth

**Gal 2:16**

- Restore when issue resolves



# **A Close Friend**

## **Paul and Barnabas: Acts 15:36-39**

- **Barnabas was the link between Paul and Apostles**
- **Barnabas was a co-worker in Antioch for a year**
- **Together they delivered aid the Judean church**
- **They were called by the HS to missional work together**
- **Suffered persecution together**
- **Appointed Elders in the churches together**

**Then there was a problem!**



## **A Close Friend**

**“One's judgment may go with Paul, but one's heart goes with Barnabas.”**

**“Paul and Barnabas parted both in anger and in sorrow. Paul owed more to Barnabas than to any other man. Barnabas was leaving the greatest spirit of the time and of all times.”**

**A. T. Robertson**



# How To Love Your Close Friend

- Don't try to force agreement
- Agree to disagree
- Part as friends
- Speak well of them
- Admit when you are wrong!

**Acts 15:37-38**

**Acts 15:39**

**Never a bad word**

**1 Cor 6:9**

**Col 4:10 Receive Mark well**

**2Tim 4:11 Send Mark, he is profitable to me!**



# **A False Friend Jesus and Judas**

**Judas was NEVER a true friend to Jesus**

- **Judas was in it for the money      John 12:6; Mt 26:14**
- **Never indicated True faith      Rabbi vs Lord**
- **Wanted a political savior, not spiritual**



# A False Friend

- For a long time, Judas's reputation was as a student and close companion of Jesus. Judas lived with Jesus and the other eleven disciples for the better part of three years. He traveled long, dusty roads with these missionary comrades. He ate with them, sat around evening fires with them talking about the kingdom of God, and he prayed with them. He heard more of Jesus's sermons than almost anybody. He received personal instruction from Jesus. He witnessed Jesus's incredible miracles and saw the Father provide for their needs over and over again.
- All during the time Judas was part of the Twelve, he mostly said and outwardly performed the right things. It's astonishing that none of Judas's fellow disciples perceived his deceitfulness. Even when Jesus finally sent Judas off to carry out his betrayal, the others didn't seem to suspect him. It was a stunning and grievous blow to them all when in the end he sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Judas's masquerade is a lesson for us. Wolves can look and sound almost exactly like sheep. And sometimes Jesus, for his own reasons, allows the disguised wolves to live among the sheep for a long time and do great damage before their deception is exposed. When this happens, we must trust that the Lord knows what he's doing. Judas reminds us that even ravaging wolves have a part to play in the drama of redemptive history.

Jon Bloom





# How To Love A False Friend

- Love them unconditionally
- Speak truth in love
- Hold them loosely
- Trust God has a plan

**Jn 13:11**

**Mt 26:23-25**

**Jn 13:26**

**Jn 13:3**



# Friends Be Crazy...Love Them Anyway!

- **The Temptation:** To avoid letting people close enough to hurt you
- **The Right Choice:** Accept that the cost of love is sometimes pain. Don't close off don't be suspicious and cynical.

**LOVE THEM ANYWAY!**

