



# Church Polity in the Book of Acts

Acts 15 & 16

8/11/19 PM

## THE CHURCH AND TEAM MINISTRY

### Introduction:

#### I. DIVIDING TO MULTIPLY (Acts 15:36-41)

A. A Smart Proposal (vs. 36)

B. A Sharp Paroxysm (vs. 37-40)

1. Barnabas' Desire
2. Paul's Disagreement
3. Their Dispute
4. Barnabas' Determination
5. Paul's Departure

C. A Significant Progress (vs. 41)

#### II. MULTIPLYING TO ADD (Acts 16:1-40)

A. A Disciple Named Timothy (vs. 1-5)

- early childhood and conversion
- excellent character and commitment
- enduring contribution and career

B. Paul and His Companions (vs. 6-12)

- the call ("Paul had a vision")
- the conviction ("after *Paul* had seen...*we* got ready")
- the confirmation ("concluding that God had called *us*")

"I am greatly comforted whenever I read this....  
If I had never read that Paul and Barnabas had  
a contention, I should have been afraid."  
G. Campbell Morgan

Plus two stories of “laymen”:

C. A Woman Named Lydia (vs. 13-15)

her trade

her tenderness (“the Lord opened her heart to respond”)

her testimony (“household...come into my house”)

“open heart” = “open home”

D. The Jailer at Philippi (vs. 23-34)

what happened in the marketplace (vs. 16-24)

what happened at midnight (vs. 25-34)

what happened in the morning (35-40)

**Conclusion:**

- 1) Opportunities for ministry and growth come to those who are already serving, not to those who are doing nothing.
- 2) It is God who chooses His leadership at every level.
- 3) Leadership problems do not resolve themselves.