

Iron Sharpens Iron
Prov. 27:17
Paul and Barnabas

Introduction

- 1. God uses friendship to cheer us and challenge us (Prov. 27:9, 17).**
- 2. However, we tend to want to shape others to fit our ideas and methods. No two of us are alike and this is not by accident. God shapes us and sharpens us by friendships with those different from ourselves.**

I. Barnabas served as an encourager/disciple of Paul.

A. An encourager is sensitive to the material needs of others (Acts 4:36; 11:29).

- Barnabas – wealthy, non-Palestinian
- On two occasions we see Barnabas responding to the have-nots and the discouraged.

B. An encourager is sensitive to the spiritual needs of others. They are counselors and disciplers.

- They help new converts (Acts 9:26).
- They disciple fellow believers (Acts 11:22)

C. How may you be an encourager?

II. Barnabas and Paul demonstrated different leadership styles.

A. They shared similarities.

B. They shared differences.

- Barnabas, the leader (at first) – Acts 13:7
- Barnabas' leadership recognized by the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:12). The Antioch church recognized Paul's leadership.
- The leadership styles were different.
- Paul and Barnabas clashed and separated

Conclusion – How is iron to sharpen iron?