

# John 20 & 21 - The Humanity of the Apostles

When we discuss these shortcomings, we are not attacking the Apostles who we honor and should emulate, but we are recognizing their humanity while still celebrating all that God did through them to build the church!

## Examples of conflicts recorded in the New Testament...

- ✓ **Galatians 2:11-16**  
Paul confronts Peter in Antioch for acting differently around Gentile Christians after some Jewish believers arrive.
- ✓ **Luke 22:24-27\***  
During the last supper, while Jesus is teaching on servanthood, His pending death and His betrayal, the disciples start arguing over who will be counted as the greatest among them. What “great timing” they have.
- ✓ **Acts 15:1-7, 10-12, 22-29**  
The Jerusalem council happens to solve a dispute in the early church on which Old Testament laws were binding on the gentiles. Since we don’t have the original list of laws argued over except circumcision, don’t get distracted by the four instructions in the letter. Obviously there is more to being a Christian than these four, and the first is only to avoid offending Jews (See 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8).  
**Note how even a contentious dispute was settled with the “losers” choosing submission to unity in the Spirit over having an attitude. What a great attitude!**
- ✓ **Acts 15:35-41**  
Barnabas first introduced Paul to the church leadership (Acts 9:26). They travelled together on their first missionary journey (Acts 12:25) along with Barnabas’ cousin, John Mark (see Col 4:10). They travelled to over 12 destinations on a lengthy trip, possibly 2 to 3 years long (Acts 14:28).
  - Then the Jerusalem council, and Paul wanted to hit the road again. He wanted Barnabas, but was strongly against John Mark coming.
  - This wasn’t doctrinal, but a personality issue. Paul left with Silas instead. The language indicates a strong and unsolvable disagreement.
  - But this conflict doesn’t stop Paul from commending these two...  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:6** – Paul says Barnabas is worthy of financial support.  
**Colossians 4:10** – Paul instructs the church to welcome John Mark.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:11** – Paul asks for John Mark to come. He needs him.

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\* Highlighted verses are the best perhaps to read together if you are teaching this lesson to others later.

## Which brings us to the greatest New Testament rivalry...

- ✓ Helps to know that Peter likely disciplined John Mark, who likely wrote the first Gospel in the early 60's AD, possibly late 50s AD.  
You will find nothing in Mark's Gospel that directly criticizes Peter.
- ✓ John was the last Gospel recorded, after Patmos and maybe 96 AD.
- ✓ Peter, James and John were a kind of inner-circle for Jesus. They witnessed the transfiguration and were asked to come near when praying in the garden.  
James dropped from the top-spot race in Acts 12 via the early retirement plan.

### We then find numerous Peter & John incidents recorded in the New Testament:

- 1. Who sits on the right and left hand of Christ?**  
Matthew 20:20-21 → James, John and their mom ask about thrones.  
Mark 10:35-37 → Mark let's you know that James and John asked too.  
John → For some reason skips this story, I wonder why?
- 2. Who cuts off the ear of the priest's servant?**  
Matthew 26:51-54, **Luke 22:49-51**, **Mark 14:47** → One of them...  
**John 18:10-11** → "Simon Peter".
- 3. Who runs away when confronted?**  
**Mark 14:51-52** → A certain young man, suspiciously anonymous...  
Luke 22:54-62 → Peter left weeping bitterly.  
**John 18:25-27** → Definitely "Simon Peter" with no remorse mentioned...
- 4. Who gets to the tomb first?**  
**Mark 16:7** → Mark records that the angel mentions Peter by name.  
Luke 24:12 → Peter ran to the tomb. No mention of John.  
**John 20:1-6** → Mary Mag runs to Peter and the one Jesus loved.  
Both run to the tomb. Who was faster? John. Peter enters first.
- 5. Who noticed Jesus first?**  
**John 21:6-8** → John recognized Jesus first.  
Peter swam over in his undies...
- 6. Who fails the Agape test?**  
**John 21:13-17** → Jesus asks for Agape twice and Peter refuses.
- 7. John's Last Comments**  
**John 21:20-25** → Peter asks, "well... what happens to John?"  
Jesus lightly rebukes him, "What is it to thee? Follow me."