

# Relating to the Apostolic – Indicative Relationships in the life of Paul

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# Peter (Cephas) – the other apostle

- Made initial apostolic contact with the Gentiles and copped flack as a result
- Acts 10: 44 – 11: 3 (11: 18 - 20 is key)
- Defended the rights of the Gentiles to not have to be circumcised - Acts 15: 7 - 11
- Recognised by Paul as having COMPLEMENTARY ministries - Galatians 2: 7 & 8
- Caved in to pressure of circumcision group and condemned publically by Paul for doing so - Galatians 2: 11 – 16
- Made part of Corinthian debate - 1 Corinthian 1: 12; 3: 22; 9: 5;
- Had difficulty understanding some of what Paul wrote, but respected him nonetheless - 2 Peter 3: 14 - 16

# Barnabas – the releasing enabler

- not a disciple of Paul but of the Apostles in Jerusalem
- a Levite of Cyprian birth, real name Joseph, a giver – Acts 4: 36
- Convinced the Jerusalem church of the genuineness of Paul's conversion - Acts 9: 27
- Sent from Jerusalem to Antioch, where he went and found Paul - Acts 11: 22 – 26;
- Sent from Antioch with Paul to bring offering – Acts 11: 30
- With Paul saw whole cities affected - Acts 13: 44 – 46

# Barnabas – the releasing enabler

- Acknowledged by Luke as an apostle himself - Acts 14: 14
- Signs & wonders with Paul - Acts 15: 12
- caught up in the circumcision controversy in Antioch – Galatians 2: 13
- Acts 15: 37 – 39 - Barnabas and Paul disagree over taking John Mark on a trip to visit churches where they had preached. He went back to Cyprus.
- 1 Corinthians 9: 6 - Barnabas and Paul have to work to support themselves

# John Mark – the one discarded

- Cousin of Barnabas,
- Son of Mary who had church in her house.
- Taken by Paul and Barnabas – Acts 12: 25
- Left the Missions trip – Acts 13: 13
- Spent time with Peter – 1 Peter 5: 13
- Relationship with Paul restored – Colossians 4: 10, Philemon 24
- Required for service – 2 Timothy 4:11

# Apollos – the predecessor

- an Alexandrian Jew, eloquent and word based but incomplete in his understanding and the Spirit side of things. (Acts 18: 24 – 28)
- Went to Corinth – the end result was division and dissension. People aligned themselves with Paul, Peter Apollos or Christ - 1 Corinthians 1: 12; 3: 4 – 6
- May have been the focus of Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 1: 17 & 2: 1
- Paul maintained relationship – 1 Corinthians 16: 12
- Paul actively facilitated his ministry – Titus 3: 13

# Luke – the reporter

- Joined Paul in Troas (Troy) in Acts 16: 8 & 9
- Included in the action of Acts in chapters 20, 27 & 28
- Mentioned by name by Paul in Colossians 4: 14 and Philemon 24
- Commended by Paul for sticking with him in 2 Timothy 4: 11

# Priscilla (Prisca) & Aquila – the sacrificial fellow workers

- Originally from Pontus in northern modern Turkey, then lived in Rome
- Worked bi-vocationally as tent-makers with Paul when Paul started in Corinth  
Acts 18: 2 & 3
- Moved to Ephesus where they
- Corrected the teaching of Apollos – Acts 18: 26
- Risked their lives in supporting Paul – Romans 16: 3 & 4
- Had a church in their house – Romans 16: 5
- At times working with Paul – 1 Corinthians 16: 19
- Still in active ministry at the end of Paul's life – 2 Timothy 4: 19

# Silas (Silvanus) – the partner,

- A leader in Jerusalem church sent to Antioch to help the work – Acts 15: 22
- a prophet - Acts 15: 32
- selected by Paul as replacement for Barnabas - Acts 15: 40
- Released (with Timothy) Paul to concentrate on the word – Acts 18: 5
- Jailed with Paul in Ephesus – Acts 16: 19
- Supported Paul in his missionary work with Timothy – Acts 17 & 18; 2 Corinthians 1: 19 and the introduction to both letters to the Thessalonians
- Worked also with Peter according to 1 Peter 5: 12

# Titus – the trouble-shooter

- Luke ignores him TOTALLY! No mention in Acts at all.
- Appears to have followed Timothy in being sent to Corinth
- Source of emotional/spiritual support for Paul –  
2 Corinthians 2: 13; 7: 6
- Refreshed by the Corinthians – 2 Corinthians 7: 13 & 14
- Involved in the offering collected for the famine victims -  
Galatians 2: 1 & 2 Corinthians 8
- Sent by Paul to Crete to sort out the churches there and put  
some structure into them,
- described as a true child (son) of Paul's
- Sent to Dalmatia

# Timothy – the true son, the ‘junior apostle’

- Third generation believer
- Picked up by Paul in Derbe & Lystra – Acts 16: 1
- Good reputation – Acts 16: 2
- Circumcised by Paul to avoid contention – Acts 16: 3
- Sent into Macedonia by Paul – Acts 19: 22
- Travelled extensively with Paul

# Timothy – the true son, the ‘junior apostle’

- Sent to Corinth as ‘beloved and faithful child in the Lord’ – 1 Corinthians 4: 17
- Issues with fear – 1 Corinthians 16: 10, 2 Timothy 1: 7 & 8
- Listed as co-author of several letters – 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon
- Planned to be sent to Philippi – Philippians 2: 19
- Sent to Thessalonica and back – 1 Thessalonians 3: 2 & 6
- Based in Ephesus (with Priscilla & Aquila?) 1 Timothy 1: 2

# The Faceless Others

- Stephanus et al – the converts,
- Demas who also deserted the work with Paul,
- Tychicus who is mentioned in 4 different letters as well as Acts
- and many, many others.

# 7 Lessons For Us

1. Even where there was disagreement, even where other true Christians created problems for Paul he still honoured them and even facilitated their ministry.
2. Many people were unable to keep up with Paul's work rate and demands
3. Some moved in and out of contact with Paul
4. Not everyone that Paul honoured was a 'son'
5. Paul's clear focus was establishing the Kingdom
6. Members of Paul's circle of contacts did not get along
7. No-one really got to spend a long period of time with Paul without significant sacrifice