



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Philippians 1:15-18

Right Message & Right Motives

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Philippians 1:12-18

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 1:12-18

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Philippians 1:12-14

Paul is updating Philippians:

V12 What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel

- **Why does Paul need to tell them this?** Because on the surface (imprisoned, chained to guard) it appears to not be working out for good
- *V13 known throughout the imperial guard ..that my imprisonment is for Christ*
- *V14 most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear*

V15-v17

Paul is going to paint a portrait of two different gospel preachers

- Understand what the text says and what it means
- Compare/Contrast the two different gospel preachers
- Consider Paul's response v18
- Focus on some key aspects of both and reflect

V15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will

Two different types of people heralding/preaching Christ:

Very important to note **both are preaching Christ**

- *V15 some indeed preach Christ*
- *V17 the former proclaim Christ*
- *V18 What then? Only that...Christ is proclaimed*

This is not an issue with the content of the message

- These are not false prophets
- This is not an **Galatians 1:8** issue: *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you , let him be accursed.*
- We have two types of people (groups) preaching Christ (gospel)

V15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will

What is different about them?

Some preaching from envy and rivalry

Some from good will

What is envy and rivalry?

Envy-ill will (as detraction-Take away); jealousy (Matt 27:18)

Rivalry-Strife, contention, wrangling, debate (competition)

What is good will?

Good will-Kind intent, benevolence

What are we seeing?

Motives which reveal the heart

You can have the right message (content) with the wrong heart (motive)

V16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel

The latter (who preach Christ from good will) do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel

- What are they characterized by? Love (for Paul and for the gospel)
- They have pure motives in their gospel preaching

Can I remind us what the bible says about our acts not motivated by love?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

V17 The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

The former (who preach Christ from envy and rivalry) proclaim Christ out of rivalry (selfish ambition) not sincerely (rather than from pure motives)

- Not done in love (not birthed from the love of God towards us in Christ)
- Birthed from selfish ambition (impure motives) to afflict Paul

Without speculating what exactly was happening that was to afflict Paul, the text is teaching heart motivation in gospel preaching is important

Paul's response

V18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

- Paul's concern is not self, but that the truth of the gospel is proclaimed
 - We have men ministering with ill-intent specifically towards Paul
- Paul's joy is not robbed (*in this I rejoice*)
- In no way minimizing the importance of pure motives in gospel preaching, Paul knows God can and does work through the gospel, even when motives are impure

V15-18

Are these people proclaiming Christ from envy, rivalry, and selfish ambition true Christians?

- If this heart/these motives define them and their ministry, then no
- **Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20idolatry, sorcery, enmity, **strife**, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- **Galatians 5:26** *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, **envying** one another.*
- Christians can be tempted & give into impure motives, but they will not be defined by them. If they are God's children, He will chasten them (Heb 12)

Are your motives pure in proclaiming the gospel?

Motives

Motive of pride

- Debate (goal to win the debate, not win the soul)
- Ministry comparison (comparing numbers)
- Lack of gentleness, while displaying harshness
 - Typically justified by saying “The truth hurts” / “I just tell it like it is”
 - Seen when people forget or fail to remember what grace they are under (and who they once were)
 - Evidenced by anger, harshness, rudeness, irritability

We are often blind to our own sin (ask those around you)

Contrasted by the motive given in v16 *“The latter do it out of love”*

Is love manifested in our gospel proclaiming?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Let’s make sure our motives are in line with our message

We must not compromise truth, but we must preach the truth in love