

The Gospel Matters more than Us
Philippians 1:15-18a - ROOTS 9/1/2023

What is the problem with the people described in v. 15a and 17?

Why is Paul's attitude towards them so surprising?

We need to answer 2 questions...

1. Can _____ people _____ the gospel? Answer: _____

2. Do _____ *not* matter? Answer: _____

Why does Paul seem unconcerned with their attitude towards him?

How can WE have the same attitude as Paul?

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What is the problem with the people described in v. 15a and 17?

(1) They Hated Paul ('envy and rivalry'), (2) They had evil motives ('selfish and not sincere'), and (3), they were happy Paul was in prison ('afflict me in my imprisonment')

Why is Paul's attitude towards them so surprising?

Paul's attitude is so surprising because (1) Paul still calls them 'brothers' (They aren't enemies like those in 1:28, 1:30, 3:2, and 3:17), (2) Paul shares little about them (he holds himself back), and (3) Paul exposes their motives, but affirms their ministry! (they preach the gospel)

We need to answer 2 questions...

3. Can **Un-Christlike** people **Advance** the gospel? Answer: **YES, they CAN, because of God's sovereignty, not because of their own goodness**

Cf. Isa. 55:10-11, Ezek. 12:25

4. Do **Motives** not matter? Answer: **NO, motives DO matter. The whole bible is consistent about that.**

Cf. Prov. 16:2, 21:2, James 4:3, 1 Sam. 16:7, Ps. 26:2, 51:10, 139:24

Why does Paul seem unconcerned with their attitude towards him?

Because "Christ is proclaimed", which is worthy of rejoicing in. Paul wasn't concerned about his own reputation, and therefore didn't need to draw attention to himself. He knew that the only person truly worthy of any attention is Jesus Christ.

How can WE have the same attitude as Paul?

1. *We must acknowledge that our self-importance GETS IN THE WAY of the gospel. We often care more about our reputation than Christ's.*
2. *We need to remember to realize how RIDICULOUS that is!*
3. *We need to remember how IMPORTANT Christ is (the God of the universe!)*
4. *We need to remember how LOVELY Christ is (He saved us while we were sinners!)*