

PREACH IT ANYWAY!

Standing Firm When Motives Around You Are Mixed

Scripture Focus: Philippians 1:15–18 (NKJV)

“Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.”

When Motives Get Messy

Have you ever noticed that even in ministry—not everyone does things with the right heart? Some preach Jesus from pure love... and some preach from jealousy, competition, or personal gain. But Paul teaches us a liberating truth: **as long as Christ is being preached, the gospel is still advancing—and THAT is worth rejoicing over.**

Let that sink in, Bible Bestie...

Other people's motives cannot stop your mission.

Their attitude cannot disrupt your assignment.

Their opinions cannot block your calling.

Paul said, *“In this I rejoice.”*

Let's learn how to do the same.

1. THE GOSPEL IS BIGGER THAN HUMAN MOTIVES

In verses 15–16, Paul acknowledges something many Christians are afraid to admit—within the Christian world, not everyone serves with clean intentions.

Some preach Christ out of:

- **Envy** – They see your anointing and feel threatened.
- **Strife** – They love drama more than discipleship.

- **Selfish ambition** – They want *followers*, not disciples.

But others preach from:

- **Goodwill**
- **Love**
- **Obedience to God**
- **Support for the mission**

Paul didn't deny the reality of wrong motives, but he also didn't let them derail his joy.

Why?

Because the gospel does not rise or fall on people's motives—it rises on **the power of Christ**.

2. PAUL WAS UNBOTHERED BECAUSE HE WAS SECURE IN HIS CALLING

Verse 17 says, “*Knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.*”

Paul knew who called him. He knew why he was on earth. He knew his purpose.

When **you** know you're appointed:

- You don't compete.
- You don't compare.
- You don't crumble under criticism.
- You don't chase validation—you walk in vocation.

People can talk.

People can misunderstand.

People can judge.

But people cannot *un-call* you!

Only Jesus gives the assignment—so only Jesus gets to define the mission.

3. WHAT MATTERS MOST: “IS CHRIST BEING PREACHED?”

Verse 18 is the breakthrough verse:

“Only that in every way... Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice.”

Paul’s mindset was Kingdom-centered, not self-centered.

He basically said:

“Look, motives may be messy, but JESUS is still being proclaimed—and that's what matters most.”

Sometimes God will use people with the wrong motives to reach the right people.

Sometimes God will use a broken vessel to pour out a perfect message.

Sometimes God will work through a situation that looks unfair just to bring someone to salvation.

Do you know what your job is?

Rejoice anyway. Keep preaching anyway. Keep loving anyway. Keep showing up anyway.

Why?

Because the Kingdom advances when Christ is preached—no matter who tries to get credit.

4. THE MESSAGE FOR US TODAY

A. Keep Your Heart Right Before God

Your motives matter—even when others’ motives don’t.

Serve from love.

Preach from purity.

Work from humility.

B. Don’t Waste Time Watching Anyone Else’s Ministry

Let God deal with hearts...
You just deal with obedience.

C. Celebrate Every Opportunity Jesus Is Lifted Up

If Christ is preached, heaven rejoices—so we should too.
Every message...
Every testimony...
Every Scripture posted...
Every livestream...
Every sermon shared...

...is another chance for someone to meet Jesus.

CONCLUSION: KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS, NOT OTHER MINISTERS!

Paul teaches us a powerful, freeing truth:
You don't need perfect conditions to fulfill your calling—just a perfect Savior.

Let the world have its drama.
Let others have their motives.
Let people say what they will.
Let hearts reveal themselves.

But as for YOU...
Preach Christ. Live Christ. Represent Christ. Rejoice in Christ.
This is your assignment.
This is your joy.
This is your victory.

HEAVENLY HIGHLIGHT ✨

Christ being preached is more important than who gets the credit.

11 Ways to Represent Jesus in Your Daily Life & Walk

1. Show Love First—Always

Jesus *led* with love—even before people earned it. Let your daily attitude say, “I love because He first loved me.”

2. Walk in Kindness Without Expecting Anything Back

Kindness evangelizes. It softens hearts. Hold the door, smile big, greet people with warmth—these little moments reveal Jesus.

3. Forgive Quickly and Fully

Nothing makes you look more like Jesus than forgiveness. Release it fast, even when the other person doesn’t apologize.

4. Speak Life, Not Negativity

Your words are seeds—plant hope, joy, truth, and encouragement everywhere you go.

5. Serve Quietly and Cheerfully

Jesus washed feet. He fed the hungry. He helped the hurting. Do the same—without needing recognition.

6. Stay in the Word Daily

A representative reflects the One they spend time with. When His Word fills you, His character flows out of you.

7. Pray Throughout the Day

“Jesus, guide me.”

“Holy Spirit, help me.”

“Father, thank You.”

Prayer keeps your life aligned with His heart.

8. Live with Integrity

Do the right thing even when no one is watching. Represent Jesus with purity and honesty in big and small decisions.

9. Practice Patience (Even When It's Hard!)

Jesus was patient with His disciples—and He's patient with us. Breathe, pause, and choose grace over frustration.

10. Share Your Faith Naturally

Talk about Jesus the way you talk about someone you love... because you do! A simple testimony can change someone's entire day.

11. Be Joyful—Let His Light Shine Through You

Your smile, your laughter, your peace in chaos...

Your joy PREACHES.

Joy tells the world that Jesus is alive in you.

Stephanie Smith Ministries – Where Bible Besties Grow in the Word Together.

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Psalms 119:105 (NKJV)

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."