

Philippians: Companions in Grace

What does it Matter?

[preaching Christ]
Philippians 1.15-18

Envy, rivalry, selfish ambition, false motives

“better than”

What really matters?
1 Corinthians 1.10-17

Mark 9.38-40

[Paul’s perspective]
of Jesus
Colossians 1.15-18

of the gospel
Ephesians 3.2-6

of himself
Ephesians 3.7-9

Going Deeper—Living it Out

In what ways have you seen God misused or used as a tool to advance someone’s own agenda?

What are some ways you have either done the same?

Why are we so insistent on being better than others, even within the church as a whole (Christians all over the world)?

How does that divert us from living the gospel?

Why do we so quickly and easily compare ourselves to other churches and Christians? How do we do it? What is the result?

How did Paul’s perspective allow him to say, “But what does it matter?”

What did Paul care most about? Why?

[putting it together]
First things first-

Extend

Embrace/Chase

Humility

Follow the Leader

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[big questions]

In what ways have you misused God for your own purposes?

What is behind your desire to have the “right answer” for everything?

How can you more actively embrace and pursue the mystery of Jesus and His gospel?

Going Deeper—Living it Out

How should we respond to people who try to use or misuse God for their own selfish ambition?

Why is it so difficult to admit that we don’t have it all figured out when it comes to Jesus, the Scriptures, the gospel and living all of this out?

How do you live in the tension between knowing and not knowing?

Maybe what’s most important is allowing the gospel to be alive in you, transforming you-how will this happen?

MEMORIZE THIS!
So how am I to respond? I've decided that I really don't care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on!

-Philippians 1.18
(The Message)