



Philippians 1:15-20 “My Motives”

Philippians 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, **are much more bold to speak the word without fear.**

1 Thessalonians 2:2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, **we were bold in our God** to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, **and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men,** they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15–16

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from **envy and strife,** and some also from goodwill:

Some INDEED preach Christ

- Christian Evangelical Churches
 - Sometimes when I feel as though the whole church world has followed Joel Osteen – Jesus tells me – No, I'll always keep a remnant!
- Not legalistic Judaizers, heretics or pagans.

- They were not anti-Christ but anti-Paul. ¹
- This phrase emphasizes that the detractors Paul is referring to did indeed preach the genuine gospel & were not heretics, Judaizers, Gnostics, idol worshipers, or devotees of Greek mythology. ²

The Lord knows our every thought, our motivation behind ministry:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Envy

- **Envy** (5355) (**phthonos**) describes pain felt and malignity conceived at the sight of excellence or happiness. **It means not just wanting what another person has, but also resenting that person for having it.** It is an attitude of ill-will that leads to division and strife and even murder. When we envy, we cannot bear to see the prosperity of others, because we ourselves feel continually wretched. ³
 - The English word **envy** is interesting as it is derived from the Latin **in** = against and **video** = to look, “to look with ill-will,” etc., toward another,
- Greek historian **Xenophon** said, **“The envious are those annoyed only at their friends’ successes.”** So envy is more set on depriving the other person of the desired thing than to gain it. ⁴

Strife

ἔρις^a *f*: (Eris) **is the spirit that is born of unbridled and unholy competition. It comes from the desire for place and power and prestige and the hatred of being surpassed.** It is essentially the sin which places self in the foreground and is the entire negation of Christian love...**(Eris) is a word of battles.** It denotes rivalry and competition, discord about place and

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Philippians: The Fellowship of the Gospel*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007), 50.

² https://www.preceptaustin.org/philippians_115-17

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁴ O'Brien, *Commentary on Philippians*, p. 99, n. 4.

prestige. It is the characteristic of the man (the church) who has forgotten that only he who humbles himself can be exalted. ⁵

Excerpted From “Designed for More”

By Lucas Ramirez

- “The truth is, when (*Eris*) applied to the fellowship of believers, competition reduces the Church to nothing more than a manufacturer of a product. But we, the church, are called to greater works. And Jesus is not a product, he is a person. The Scriptures call us to be vehicles for his love through a spiritual family (where free market principles do not apply), and not a corporation. In Jesus’ final prayers in John 17 he asks that the church be one so that others will believe in him. In other words, the world is going to look at us and then decide what they believe about Jesus. So the question is, do we believe our call is to be better than the church next door or to help the church next door become better?” ⁶
- **Ron Daniel:** They wanted to prove that they were just as - or even more - effective a minister than he.
The amazing thing to me is that Paul rejoiced at both situations. Why? Because although he knew that God would judge their motives, he knew that the Gospel was being proclaimed.

J Vernon McGee: “Paul will mention envy and strife several times in this epistle. There must have been quite a few who were preaching the gospel in that way, envious of the apostle Paul, jealous because they didn’t have the results that Paul had.

One of the solutions to this problem of envy is for every Christian to recognize that he has a gift. We do not all have the same gift. The body could not function if we did. The problem is that some men who have one gift are envious of a man who has a different gift. You will remember that Paul told the Corinthians that the gifts are to be exercised in love. Every gift is to be exercised in love.”

Envy says, "I don't think much of you," and pride says, "What do you think of me?" That is the difference between envy and pride, and the believer is warned against both of them. ⁷

⁵ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 494.

⁶ <https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/books/christian-living-books/34457-completion-or-competition-which-best-describes-your-church.html>

⁷ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary*, electronic ed., vol. 5 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 296–297.

16 The former (*those who preach out of strife and envy*) preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely,

supposing to add affliction to my chains;

17 but the latter (*those who preach out of good will*) out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

- **50/20 Vision: Joseph's brothers had tremendous envy of Joseph**

Genesis 50:20 **But as for you, you meant evil against me;**

but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Philippians 2:3–4

3 **Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit,** but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself.**

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:5–7

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 **but made Himself of no reputation,**⁸ (*emptying*)

taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

18 **What then?** (*What's the big deal?*)

Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

What an attitude!

Philippians 1:18 (NIV)

But what does it matter?

⁸ The use in Phil. 2:7 is of great theological importance. It refers to Jesus Christ as emptying Himself at the time of His incarnation, denoting the beginning of His self-humiliation in verse eight. In order to understand what is meant by Jesus' emptying Himself, the whole passage (Phil. 2:6–8) must be examined. Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ⁹

- **Who cares?**

- What I care about is that **CHRIST IS PREACHED!**
- **A.T. Robertson: “Some Christ is better than no Christ.”** ¹⁰

Rejoice:

- Paul is determined to REJOICE, and REJOICE again! ¹¹
- **25.125 χαίρω^a:** to enjoy a state of happiness and well-being—‘to rejoice, to be glad.’ χαίρω ἐν τοῖς παθήμασιν ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν ‘I rejoice as I suffer for you’ Col 1:24; ὡς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες ‘although saddened, we are always rejoicing’ 2 Cor 6:10. ¹²
 - **“This kind of joy is distinct from mere happiness. Joy like this is possible, even in the midst of sorrow.”** ¹³
- **How determined are you to rejoice at another’s success when you should feel it is your time to succeed?**

19 For I know that **this** will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

What confidence!

- The right attitude always brings the right confidence.
- Confidence in Christ – not himself!
 - Do you really believe that Christ Jesus will right every wrong?
 - Do you really believe that ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPEN TO HIS EYES?

Hebrews 4:12–13

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and

⁹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984), Php 1:18.

¹⁰ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Php 1:18.

¹¹ The joy required of the righteous person (Ps. 150; Phil. 4:4) is produced by the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:22). This kind of joy looks beyond the present to our future salvation (Rom. 5:2; 8:18; 1 Pet. 1:4, 6) and to our sovereign God, who works out all things for our ultimate good, which is Christlikeness (Rom. 8:28–30). **This kind of joy is distinct from mere happiness.** Joy like this is possible, even in the midst of sorrow (1 Cor. 12:26; 2 Cor. 6:10; 7:4). Ronald F. Youngblood, F. F. Bruce, and R. K. Harrison, Thomas Nelson Publishers, eds., *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1995).

¹² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 302.

¹³ Ronald F. Youngblood, F. F. Bruce, and R. K. Harrison, Thomas Nelson Publishers, eds., *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1995).

spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that **in nothing I shall be ashamed,** but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

Listen to that once again:

- **in nothing I shall be ashamed,**
 - **That's my joy – that's what I can REJOICE IN!**
 - **To joy**
 - **To rejoice**
 - **To rejoice even again!**