

Knowing Why Paul at All

Eight Things You Should Know to Follow Jesus

1 Cor 14:37 – “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”

1. A common objection to Pauline M.A.D. right division – You follow Paul/I follow Jesus
 - a. Actually following from place to place? – no, he’s not walking around on earth right now
 - i. You’ll be tired, hungry, and hot, if not dead (Lk 4:1-2)
 - b. Following Jesus in practice – WWJD? – no, you cannot do what Jesus did
 - i. born under the law (Gal 4:4), is God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16), lived sinless life (Heb 4:15), etc.
 - c. Following = doing what he said to do, what he commanded (Jn 15:10, 14)
2. What did Jesus command? (Mat 18:8-9 for life, 10:5-7 for preaching, 6:14-15 for forgiveness)
 - a. Follow Moses? (Mat 23:1-3 for obedience, Lk 18:18-20 for eternal life)
 - b. The objection implies a false dichotomy
 - c. The only way to follow Jesus today is to follow Paul (1 Tim 1:16, 1 Cor 4:15-16, 11:1)
3. Why Paul though?
 - a. Jesus gave Paul a message/instructions, and made him an apostle and minister to the Gentiles – 1 Tim 2:4-7, Eph 3:1-8, Gal 1:11-12, Rom 15:15-16
 1. **The Body of Christ, not the nation/kingdom of Israel:** Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-23, 1 Cor 12:27 (Gen 12:1-3, Gen 17:7-8, 1 Chr:16:13-18, Ex 19:3-6, 2 Sam 7:8-17)
 2. **Salvation’s Work is done, not work to do:** Eph 1:13, 2:8-9, Rom 4:5, Rom 11:6 (Deut 6:25, Jam 2:10, 14, 17, 20, 24, 26, Heb 6:4-8, 10:23-30)
 3. **Heaven, not Earth:** Eph 1:3, 2:6, 2 Cor 5:1-8, 1 Thes 4:16-17 (Job 19:25-27, Gen 50:24-25, Heb 11:22, Eze 37:1-14, John 11:21-26)
 4. **Baptism into Christ’s Body, not into water:** 1Cor 1:13-17, 12:13, Gal 3:27, Col 2:11-12, Eph 4:4-6 (Mat 3:11, John 1:31, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, 8:12 & 36-38, 10:47-48)
 5. **Christ’s Cross is glory, not a shame:** 1 Cor 2:7-8, 15:1-4, Gal 6:14 (Lk 9:45, 18:31-34, 22:61-62, 24:7, Acts 2:22-23, Acts 7:51-58)
 6. **Israel is fallen, not Israel is restored:** Rom 11:11, Acts 7, Acts 8, Acts 18:5-6, 28:25-28 (Rom 11:12, Acts 1:6-8, Heb 8:8-12/Jer 31:33-34)
 7. **Grace now, not Grace in the future:** Rom 5:1, Col 2:9-10, & 13, (Acts 15:7-12, 1 Pt 1:13, Acts 3:19-21, Rom 11:25-27)
 8. **Paul’s message is different, not the same:** Rom 16:25 vs. Acts 3:19-21, Gal 2:7-9, 2 Cor 5:19-20, 1 Cor 14:37