

# I FOLLOW PAUL, AND SO SHOULD YOU

## THE LORD JESUS CHRIST GAVE US AN APOSTLE

*"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy,  
that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering,  
for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."*

~ 1 Timothy 1:16

### Don't Be Ashamed of Paul

- a. *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"* - Rom 1:16
  - b. We are accused prejudicially, "You worship Paul." "You make too much of Paul"
  - c. #1 killer of grace churches = shame of Paul/grace - 2 Tim 1:8, 12, 16, 2:15
  - d. **"I follow Paul"** - we should not be timid to express it, nor should all Christians
- 1) Scripture commands it** – 1 Cor 4:16, 11:1, Phi 3:17, 2 Th 3:7-9
  - 2) The Lord Jesus Christ sent Paul** – John 13:20, Acts 9:15, 26:15-18, Gal 1:1
  - 3) The Lord made him your apostle** – Rom 11:13, 15:16, Eph 3:1, Gal 2:9
  - 4) God commanded he be a pattern** – 1 Tim 1:1, 1 Tim 1:16
  - 5) The gospel committed to him** – 1Co 9:17, Gal 2:7, 2Co 4:3, 1Th 2:4, 1Ti 1:11
    - a. If you are saved, it is by Paul's "gospel of Christ" – Rom 16:25, 1 Cor 15:1-4
    - b. Without Paul, there is no gospel of grace (60%) or Romans or Eph 1:12-13
    - c. Luther - "true masterpiece...very purest gospel...learn it by heart...daily bread"
    - d. Something else was committed unto him: the mystery of Christ – Col 1:25-26

### What Does it Mean to Follow Paul?

- 1) You receive the will of God through Paul's books – Eph 3:2, Phi 4:9 (1Tim 2:4, 1Th 4:3, 5:18)
- 2) Your foundation is the one Paul laid – 1 Cor 1:10, 3:10-11
- 3) Your church receives its identity & doctrine from him – Eph 3:3, 1 Cor 12:13, 2 Tim 3:16
- 4) Your traditions and church order comes from him – 2 Th 3:6, 1 Cor 11:34, 14:37-40, 1 Tim
- 5) You're faithful to understand and minister the mystery of Christ – 1 Cor 4:1, Eph 3:4, 3:9
- 6) Speak abundantly about the grace and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 13:43, Gal 6:14
- 7) You elevate Christ above you, above all – Col 1:18, 2:10, 2:19, Eph 1:20-23, Rom 16:27
- 8) You do not worship the messenger or elevate yourself – Mt 3:11, Act 10:26, 14:15, Gal 2:11
- 9) You hold the word of God/grace as sufficient and complete – Rom 3:4, 2Ti 3:16-17, Col 1:25
- 10) You do not diminish the work of Christ by your works - Gal 2:21, 5:2
- 11) Your private life and heart is like him - Pray often and frequently – 1 Th 5:17-18
- 12) Your way of life is like him – walking after the Spirit - Rom 8:1, Gal 5:16
- 13) Your manner of life from him – longsuffering, charity, living godly by grace - 2 Tim 3:10-14
- 14) You count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ - Phil 3:7-8
- 15) You are willing to spend and be spent in ministry to others – 2 Cor 12:15, 1 Cor 9:22
- 16) Christ is the Saviour, Head, Lord, God, King - you are not (neither is Paul).

Knowing the pattern Christ gave to us, **we follow Paul, and so should every Christian.**