

Gal 1:10-12

In this section, Paul is defending the Gospel, partly by defending his apostleship

Apparently Paul was called into question (by the Judaizers) because he was not 'officially' from Jerusalem
And therefore he was accused of changing the Gospel from the 'official' Jewish Gospel

This is a tricky situation for Paul to navigate

He cannot say "Yes I am from Jerusalem"

He cannot acknowledge he is not from Jerusalem in a way that would lessen his own status and authority

He cannot stress his independence from Jerusalem in a way that downplays or criticizes Jerusalem or the other apostles

He cannot equate himself with them, but he cannot put himself over against them

How will he navigate this difficult situation?

I. I am not a man pleaser (10)

Paul is defending his credentials and his right to be heard in correcting their doctrine

A. Two Questions (10a-b)

1. Am I now seeking the approval of men or God? Implied answer: God (10a)

2. Am I seeking to please men? Implied answer: No, trying to please God (10b)

B. Answering Principle (10c-d)

1. Condition: If I were still pleasing men (10c)

2. Result: I would not be a servant of Christ (10d)

These two are mutually exclusive (in this case)

Not in all cases, but sometimes we must make a choice

Why does he say this?

Probably he was accused of waffling – being a man pleaser to win converts, making it too easy to believe

II. Evidence that Paul was serving/pleasing God (11-12)

All of 1:11-2:21 is evidence that Paul was following/serving/pleasing God in what he was doing as opposed to pleasing man

By extension, Paul's Gospel is the true Gospel that pleases God

Paul's Gospel is not from man, but from God

A. I am making known/reminding you of the Gospel, brothers (11)

cf. 1 Cor. 15:1

1. I am reminding you of the Gospel which I gossiped to you (11a)

cf. 1 Cor. 15:3

2. Specifically: that it is not according to man, in conformity with man (11b)

Either "That" or "Because,"

what was made known about the Gospel,

or the reason why it was made known

It is not according to man

It is not a human invention, not according to human standards

Paul will harp on this in 1 Corinthians

The Gospel is not just another religion or philosophy

It is the revelation of God

- B. Reason: It is from God, not man (12)
1. Neg.: Not from Man (12a-b)
 - a I did not receive it from man (12a)
 - cf. v. 9, 1 Cor. 15:1
 - He has already made this point in 1:1
 - b Nor was I taught [by man] (12b)
 - Like v. 1 man is neither the source nor the means/agent
 2. Pos: But [I received it] via revelation from Jesus Christ (12c)
 - cf. 2:2, 1 Cor. 15:3
 - But I received it by revelation of Jesus Christ
 - (or from Jesus) both are true

Why is Paul saying this?

- To prove that his Gospel is pure because he got it from the source
 - He did not need the approval of Jerusalem
 - He had the revelation of Christ
 - Christ is not limited to the Jerusalem church,
 - but He can reveal and call independently of them
 - Paul is referring to his Damascus road experience
 - He had seen the risen Christ
 - This is the mark of an apostle, all the qualification he needed
- BTW Paul was educated and had human preparation in God's providence
- The point here is not independence being a virtue
 - But that independence is not a vice/hindrance