

# Paul, the "Anti"

## Introduction:

1. **DEFINED: "A person opposed to a practice, law, policy, movement, or the like".**
    - A. **It is also used as "a prefix signifying opposite, against, instead, counter."**
  
  2. **While the word is never used in the New Testament as one ever being referred to as simply "anti", it is used as a prefix four times.**
    - A. **Each time as "anti-Christ," designating one who is an opponent of Christ (1 John 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7.**
- 1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
3. **As an "anti" is one who opposes a thing or person, his being branded as good or evil is dependent upon what he opposes.**
    - A. **No man should be stigmatized simply because he is opposed to something.**
  
  4. **"Anti" is a very common term in the vocabulary of brethren who resent having any of their practices called in question.**
    - A. **They attach the term "anti" to those of us who oppose such promotions as:**
      - 1) **the sponsoring church type of cooperation**
      - 2) **the church support of human institutions**
      - 3) **the social gospel**

- B. Brethren who oppose these things are branded as "antis" and any church that does not go along with them is tagged as an "anti" church.**
- 5. Considering all of this, we must then conclude that the apostle Paul was an "anti."**

## **Preaching**

- 1. The apostle Paul was opposed to unsound preaching.**  
**2 Timothy 4:1-4**

Titus 1:10-11 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, **teaching things which they ought not**, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, **speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:**

- 2. He was in favor of sound preaching and it was that kind of preaching that he did (2 Tim 4:2).**

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

- 3. Paul was not anti-preaching, but he was anti-unsound preaching.**

- A. The kind that would tickle the ears of the hearers and lead people from the truth.**

- 1) In this sense, Paul was an "anti"!**

## Cooperation

### 1. Paul was in favor of cooperation. He believed in working with God

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

#### A. He received money directly from churches for his support in preaching the gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

#### B. He received help from Philippi.

Philippians 4:15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

#### C. He believed that churches could send fund to churches whose members were in physical distress.

**Acts 11:27-30**

**1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

### 2. But Paul was opposed to a sponsoring church arrangement.

#### A. Elders of one church overseeing the work of another church or churches.

##### 1) He admonished the elders at Ephesus to mind their own affairs when he told them:

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

### 3. Paul was not anti-cooperation, but he was anti-sponsoring church (no Bible authority). **In opposing this, he was "anti"!**

## **Benevolence**

- 1. Paul was in favor of Christians helping all men and he urged them to do so.**

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- A. He was aware of each individual's responsibility.**
- 2. Paul was opposed to the church's assuming the obligation of unlimited benevolence because he taught that the church was to help needy SAINTS (Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor 16:1-4).**
  - A. Not even all needy saints were to be wards of the church.**
    - 1) He limited the church support of widows to those of certain qualifications (1 Timothy 5:3-16).**
- 3. Paul was for benevolence but he was opposed to the church engaging in UNLIMITED benevolence (helping saints and non-saints).**

**In this area, Paul would be considered an "anti"!**

## Social

- 1. Paul was not opposed to eating, but he was opposed to such as promoted by the church for entertainment.**

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- 2. There is no indication that Paul was against wholesome recreation - but he did not promote it as a work of the church!**

- A. He understood what the work of the church is and his preaching was characterized by Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

- 3. Paul was not opposed to recreation, entertainment, and eating in their proper places, but he was opposed to them as the WORK of the church.**

- A. Paul never regarded these things as "fellowship" to be found in Christ.**

- 4. Paul was for the work of the church but he was an "anti" in regard to church sponsored entertainment and recreation.**

## Conclusion

- 1. No doubt if many brethren today had been living during Paul's time, they would have called him an "anti".**

- 2. But if opposing the things that Paul opposed makes me or any one of us an "anti" then we should gladly and proudly stand with Paul who was one of the greatest "antis" who ever lived!**

- A. He was against practicing anything that would be in violation of God's inspired Word.**

