

Christ, Not Self  
Philippians 1:12-18  
June 15, 2025

**Discussion Questions** - These are a guide and conversation starter, not a script.

1. Read Luke 14:25-26. What did Jesus mean by “hating” others and even hating oneself? Can you think of examples of how your actions for Christ might be perceived as hatred of someone else, or even of self-hatred?
2. In 1:12-14, how do we see Paul surrendering control of his life to the Lord? Have you seen the Lord place you in circumstances that you did not anticipate to give you an opportunity to share Christ with others?
3. In v. 14, how were other believers helped by Paul’s suffering? How has the Lord used the trials in your life to make you more of an encouragement to other believers?
4. What motivated the falsely motivated preachers in vv. 15-17? What are different ways that selfish ambition can rear its ugly head in our lives and in the church? How can we guard our lives from this awful, deceptive motivation?
5. In contrast to the selfish preachers, what motivated the well intentioned preachers in vv. 15-17? How did Paul’s focus on Christ and not self bring him joy no matter what was happening?
6. A heart full of Christ, not self, is a heart full of joy. How have you found this statement to be true in your life?