

## Why Are We Not Called Anti?

**Text:** Galatians 2:1-5

### **Introduction:**

1. In Acts 15:1 we find that one of the great controversies in the early church was the question of binding that which God had not in regard to circumcision.
2. In our text we find that Paul identifies such teachings as being the product of false teachers which would be an attack upon the liberty in Christ and the furtherance of the truth of the gospel. It was with such thoughts in mind that he rejected the act of circumcision on Titus (though circumcision itself was morally neutral (Galatians 5:6)). Clearly Paul thought that the binding of something which God had not bound was a serious matter.
3. In the middle of the last century a similar battle raged amongst the Lord's church. There were those who began to again attack liberty in Christ and bind things which God has not bound. It is those brethren who became known as "anti." The term itself is not used to degrade (all of us are "anti" something if following Christ!) – simply to identify brethren and their teachings.
4. In this area we find congregations which are identified as "anti" (they generally use the term "non-institutional"). But this congregation is not known as such. Why not? Let's see...

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Have a Located Preacher**

1. Acts 18:11; 20:31
2. 1 Corinthians 9:11-14

#### **II. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Have Bible Classes**

1. Acts 2:42; Hebrews 5:12; Titus 2:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:2

#### **III. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Will Eat in the Building (And Even Have a Kitchen)**

1. Their prohibition is from a gross misrepresentation of 1 Corinthians 11. It is filled with inconsistencies and problems. For example, - what of water fountains (1 Corinthians 11:22)? What of eating outside your own home? What of the churches that met in homes?! (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:19)
2. A kitchen is an expediency to fellowship (which can be eating of meals - 1 Cor. 5:11; cf. Jude 12)

#### **IV. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Give Benevolent Help From The Treasury to Non-saints**

1. Galatians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 9:12-13

#### **V. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Will Support Orphan's Homes From the Treasury**

1. James 1:27

#### **VI. We Are Not "Anti" Because We Are a Supporting Congregation in Evangelism**

1. Philippians 4:15 (Note that in 2 Corinthians 11:8-9 Paul noted he "robbed other churches" - thus it is clear the Philippian church "kept the books" regarding these offerings, receiving and dispersing them – a "sponsoring church")

#### **Conclusion:**

1. As we said, there are congregations in this area which are known as "anti" (though not all hold all of the doctrines spoken of above) (cf. *Where The Saints Meet*)
2. Is this a serious matter if congregations do not do the things spoken of above? – No, *unless they (as did the false teachers in the first century) seek to spy out the liberty in Christ and bind these matters, making them matters of fellowship and thus destructive to the gospel!* (Cf. Galatians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Revelation 22:18-19)
3. Note in Galatians 2:4 the brethren then were spoken of as coming in "privily." This relates to the stealthy manner in which they sought to subvert the truth. Sadly today many of the "anti" teachers act in such a manner. Today, as then, we ought not to yield ("give place") unto them at all. To do so is still to hinder the truth of the gospel.