

### Causing Trouble?

<sup>17</sup> From now on let no one cause trouble for me,  
for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

#### What is it to cause trouble? How did they cause trouble for Paul?

1. They were [listening](#) to and beginning to buy into error, a distorted gospel. 1:6-7
2. They [allowed](#) the false teachers hinder them from obeying the truth (5:7) to disturb their faith (5:10) and to trouble their church (5:12) which resulted in their disunity (5:26, they became boastful, challenging one another, envying one another).
3. They challenged his spiritual [authority](#), his apostleship. 1:11-12, 15-17
4. They turned against him personally, such that they now viewed him and treated him as an [enemy](#). (4:15-16)
5. Their sudden change perplexed (frustrated, MSG) and [pained](#) him. (1:6; 3:1; 4:11; 4:19-20)
6. Their departure from sound doctrine and Biblical practice added to his burden (2 Cor. 11:28) and probably [distracted](#) him from his present ministry efforts.

#### What does the price he has paid in ministry have to do with it?

1. Paul seems to be saying that he [deserves](#) some respect on this issue in light of the personal price he has paid as part of the cost of following and serving Christ.
2. "Marks" meant brands of ownership as would be put on cattle or slaves. Paul was speaking of the scars he had on his body as proof of Christ's ownership of him, as proof that he was a slave of Christ, not a people-pleaser.
3. Those who taught error and attacked his credibility had not sacrificed or suffered in ministry for Christ.

In fact, sacrifice and suffering were the very thing the teachers of error sought to avoid. They were trying to please the Jewish authorities. (1:10 and 6:12)

4. Paul was saying, "I am Jesus' property." "[I am His](#)."
5. Paul [should](#) have been respected and his teaching should have been followed because he was an Apostle called by Jesus Himself, Who gave him the gospel to proclaim. (Gal. 1:11-12)
6. So Paul says, "Don't trouble me by following error. And don't challenge my gospel or my Apostleship." (1:11ff)

#### Biblical Principle:

Respect spiritual leaders who work hard in ministry for Christ.

Phil 2:25-30

1 Timothy 5:17

1 Thes. 5:12-13

1 Corinthians 16:15-16

Hebrews 13:17

#### Biblical Principle:

Respect spiritual leaders who work hard in ministry for Christ.

Follow them, don't [fight](#) them.

Cooperate with them, don't combat them.

#### So What? Now What? Action Points:

What spiritual instruction have you received from your spiritual leaders that you have not followed?

What spiritual instruction have you received from your spiritual leaders that you need to heed?

When are you going to do it?