

THERE ARE MORE FOR YOU THAN AGAINST YOU

*Php 1:14 and that **most** of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.*

*Php 1:15 **Some**, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;*

When we make a stand for the Lord or make a decision being in leadership you will soon discover two groups of people that will greet you. They are those that are for ya and those that are agin' ya. Agin' ya is hick term for against you! Paul was experiencing this first hand. Once he entered into prison for preaching the gospel, two groups rose up. Those who loved the Lord and supported Paul and believed the truth about him and those who were envious, caused him problems, and spread lies behind his back. Now it is inevitable that if you are going to make a real stand for God or take proper leadership you will meet these two groups of people. Paul brings out here a very important principle. I call it the most-some principle. If you are upright and serving God with a clear conscience then in most cases the group that is for you will be more than those against you. It is very important to see two words in the above verses. **Most** of the brethren are trusting in the Lord. **Most** are following God and are following your lead. The word most here in the Greek means the major part. However, Paul uses a different word for those that were against him. He uses the word **some**. "**Most and some**". It seems to be our human tendency to focus on the some and not on the most! There will always be a few knuckle heads that want to cause problems. They are in every church. However, the majority of Christians trust the Lord and you as the leader.

Php 1:16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

Php 1:17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

Paul says that the majority group loved the Lord. He also says that they knew the truth about him. They did not believe the lies that the some were telling about him. It is a temptation to have to go around defending yourself to the majority in order to combat the lies of the some. However, dear friend the majority already know the truth. Those that trust and love the

Lord are sensitive to God and they know on the inside what is truth and what is lies. Another thing you must realize is that the some that come against you will try convince you that they are the majority! You will have a few people try to tell you that everyone agrees with them and no one is happy. When you get to the truth it is just a few people huddled together trying to make themselves bigger than they are.

What I call the most-some principle is extremely important to understand for a leader. If you do not understand this principle then your success in ministry or leadership will be greatly hampered or even end in failure. You can have 10 people come up and say they enjoyed a message you preached but only one person who disagreed with it and you go into a tailspin and focus the rest of the week on that one person and how unhappy they are. We tend to focus on the few that are causing problems than on the majority that are a blessing and getting blessed. If you focus on problems and those who cause them then you will always be weighed down and the ministry will become unbearable. If you will focus on the most then you will have strength and joy to deal with the some. Unfortunately, many, many, ministers have chucked the entire ministry over a few problem people! The "some" tainted their view of everyone. They gave up exclaiming, "I just can't deal with people! They all cause problems!"

Well, you might say, "Rick, actually I have the majority against me and only some with me!!" Well, you are looking only at the natural. Open your spiritual eyes and you will see that there are more for you than against you even if everyone is against you in the natural.

2Ki 6:15 *Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"*

2Ki 6:16 *So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

2Ki 6:17 *Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Even if everyone is against you, if you are walking in an upright heart, you have more for you than is against you. You have all the promises of God on your side. You have angels on your side. You have the blood of

Jesus on your side. You have the power of the Holy Spirit on your side. You have the authority of the Father on your side. There are more for you than against you! Stand up and be strong! Get your focus off the some and onto the most! If everyone is against you, then get your focus on the Most High! If you will understand the most-some principle it will go a long way in helping you deal with people.