

Acts 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Analysis

Paul's strategic declaration - 'I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question' - brilliantly divided the council. This wasn't deception but highlighting how the real issue centered on resurrection, Christianity's core claim. By identifying with Pharisees against Sadducees, Paul created allies and exposed that opposition to Christianity was rooted in denying God's power to raise the dead.

Historical Context

Pharisees believed in resurrection, angels, and spirits; Sadducees denied all three (verse 8). The Sanhedrin was divided between these parties, representing different approaches to Jewish faith and Roman collaboration.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can you wisely identify common ground with some opponents to advance gospel truth?
2. What does this teach about recognizing that core theological issues, like resurrection, underlie many disputes?

Interlinear Text

Γνοὺς	δὲ	ὁ	Παῦλος	ὅτι	τὸ	ἐν	μέρος	ἐστὶν
perceived	But		when Paul	that		the one	part	were
G1097	G1161	G3588	G3972	G3754	G3588	G1520	G3313	G2076
Σαδδουκαίων	τὸ	δὲ	ἕτερον	Φαρισαίου·	ἔκραξεν	ἐν		
Sadducees		But	the other	Pharisees	he cried out	in		
G4523	G3588	G1161	G2087	G5330	G2896	G1722		
τῷ	συνεδρίῳ	ἄνδρες	ἀδελφοί	ἐγὼ	Φαρισαίου·	εἰμι		
the council	Men	and brethren	I	Pharisees	am			
G3588	G4892	G435	G80	G1473	G5330	G1510		
υἱὸς	Φαρισαίου·	περὶ	ἐλπίδος	καὶ	ἀναστάσεως	νεκρῶν		
the son	Pharisees	of	the hope	and	resurrection	of the dead		
G5207	G5330	G4012	G1680	G2532	G386	G3498		
ἐγὼ	κρίνομαι							
I	am called in question							
G1473	G2919							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:15 (Resurrection): And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Acts 24:21 (Resurrection): Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

Philippians 3:5 (Resurrection): Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Acts 28:20 (Hope): For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

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