

**Why is Paul only #10 on the list?**

There are two simple reasons. First, the New Testament is not nearly as long as the Old Testament, and second, the New Testament is far more about the Lord Jesus than about those who served Him. Therefore there are about ten times more references to Christ (#1) in the New Testament than to Paul.

**Why does Paul outranking Peter surprise some?**

The Roman Catholic church claims that Peter was the first pope. Moreover, Peter is in the Gospels as well as in Acts, but Paul does not even appear in the record until [Acts 7:58](#). If the names alone are counted, Peter comes out on top, but there is more involved than just the name counts. Paul is referred to often in other ways in both Acts and his Epistles.

**Why does Paul far outrank Peter in Acts?**

As the gospel advanced ([Acts 1:8](#)), ministry to Gentiles came to the forefront. Though Peter evangelized Cornelius, Paul was God's main minister to the Gentiles ([Rom. 15:16](#), [Eph. 3:7](#), [Col. 1:25](#), [1 Tim. 2:7](#), [2 Tim. 1:11](#)). Therefore references to Paul in Acts outnumber those to Peter by a factor of about three to one.

**Why was Paul often just 'this man' or 'a man'?**

The Jews who opposed him and the Romans who judged him often referred to Paul as 'this man' ([Acts 21:28](#), [23:27](#), [30](#), [24:5](#), [26:31](#), etc.) rather than honor him by using his name. In addition, Paul referred to himself simply as 'a man in Christ' rather than by using the normal first person pronoun 'I' when he spoke about his experience of being caught up to the third heaven ([2 Cor. 12:2-4](#)). This shows Paul's great humility before God.

**Why did Paul sometimes seem to boast about himself?**

Paul was forced to defend the ministry God had given him, in a way that sounded like boasting ([2 Cor. 11:16-12:6](#)). Yet, it was not worldly boasting. Likewise, calling himself the Lord's prisoner ([Eph. 3:1](#), [4:1](#), [2 Tim. 1:8](#), [Philem. 1,9](#)) or an ambassador in chains ([Eph. 6:20](#)) would not have impressed worldly people.