

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: 1 Corinthians 9:18-23

October 27, 2019

Overview:

The freedom Paul is referring to in verse 19 is a continuation of what he has been writing about in verses 15-18. He states that he is free and belongs to no one. Paul was preaching the full gospel freely to everyone who would hear. He didn't soften the gospel to those who supported his ministry. Paul was not going to belong to anyone, but Christ alone. Some pastors do not want to offend big givers so they will avoid confrontation to keep the status quo. Paul saw this as a huge hindrance to the Gospel.

Paul's main goal was to win as many as possible. He kept winning the lost as his main focus. In verses 19-23 the phrase win and save "as many as possible" appears six times in these verses. Paul sums up this passage by stating he has become all things to all people so as to save some. He is not talking about compromising morals in any way, but speaking the Gospel to all people in a way they can relate to.

Canned track evangelism will not work for everyone. Someone living in the Middle East will need the Gospel explained differently than someone living in Mid-west America. The message itself is the same, but the approach is different. Paul's main point in these verses can be referred to as friendship evangelism. Truth shared with love will go way further than just plain truth. Figure out someone's background then explain the Gospel to them in a way they can relate to.

Paul's examples:

1. If someone was very legalistic – He can respect the law but explain how Christ came to fulfill the law
2. If someone knew nothing of Jewish law or history – He can explain God's grace and how Jesus paid for the sins of everyone.

The church is God's instrument for seeking and saving the lost. We cannot allow finances or cultural differences to change our message.

"Many Christians barely know any non-Christians well enough to share their faith in less than superficial fashion. Many congregations so insist on their members attending countless church functions that faithful followers have no time left for a fallen world. Better to spend less time in church and more in the world, so

long as that does not reflect a lack of commitment to Christ and mature Christian living.”¹

Bible Study:

1. Read Matthew 6:21. Why was Paul so reluctant to become indebted to anyone? How can gearing the gospel message for big givers taint the mission of the church?
2. Why can finances become such a controlling factor in your life?
3. Paul doesn't change the message, but is willing to change his approach. How can First MB change its approach to sharing the gospel message in the years ahead?
4. Paul would have been as comfortable sharing the Gospel with a drug addict as he would a business professional. In your sphere of influence, who do you gravitate toward and why?
5. How can First MB become a place where ALL people find and follow Jesus? When you read the word ALL is there any group or category of people who you think it doesn't include?
6. Read John 3:16. Jesus came for the “who so evers.” Anyone who is breathing right now belongs in the “who so ever” crowd. In what ways can reaching the lost mean letting go of what you are comfortable with when it comes to church? Without compromising the Gospel, are you willing to become all things to all people?

¹ Blomberg, C. (1994). [*1 Corinthians*](#) (pp. 188–189). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.