



Message Series Guide

Imperfect Church – I Corinthians

Part 14 – Win by Losing

I Corinthians 9:9-27

Every Christian is called to govern his or her life with eternal values in view. Paul taught that followers of Christ must be willing to lose (or set aside) their personal rights and freedom in order to win people for Christ. This calling is not easy and requires discipline and hard work. Paul's illustration from the Greek games would have been familiar to his readers living in Corinth. The contestants had to discipline themselves and lay aside even good things in order to win a prize. If athletes can give up their rights in order to win a fading crown, certainly Christians can lay aside privileges to win an eternal crown. Only one athlete can win an event, but all Christians are given the opportunity to win Christ's approval.

READ:

I Corinthians 9:19-27 • Mark 10:44 • Romans 11:13-14 • Galatians 5:13 • I Peter 2:16-17

- As an apostle of Jesus Christ, what rights did Paul have? Why did Paul make himself a servant to everyone? How was becoming a servant/slave in line with the teachings of Jesus?
- What was Paul willing to give up so he could share the gospel with others? Give some examples of what some missionaries today must give up in order to gain opportunities to share the gospel in foreign places?
- What specifically did Paul do or not do to become all things to all men? Was Paul talking about compromising his faith to win people to the Lord?
- Why is it necessary for an athlete to train with discipline and purpose if he/she wants to win? Why did Paul say it was necessary for a Christian to live a disciplined life?
- How did Paul associate his goal of winning people to Christ to the athlete's goal of winning the race? What boundaries did Paul establish for himself?

DISCUSS:

- Discuss the emphasis that our society places on winning and success? Describe a time when you had to sacrifice (lay aside) something important in order to "win" or find success?
- How can insisting on our freedoms in Christ hinder others from receiving the gospel message? What role does love play in denying our freedoms in order to win others with the gospel?
- How far should we be willing to go to win lost people to the Lord? How far was Paul willing to go? What did he mean when he said he would become weak to win the weak?
- What actions in this life could disqualify a person from being rewarded by God in eternal life?
- How can neglecting spiritual disciplines (such as prayer, Bible study and worship) disqualify a Christian from having an influence on unbelievers?
- What should you be doing now to be assured of finishing your race (life) well?

PRAY:

Pray about what rights and/or freedoms you would be willing to lay down in order to win someone to Christ with the gospel message.

RESPOND:

Be disciplined to make time for prayer, Bible study and worship this week in order to help you train for telling others about Christ.



Message Sermon Notes
Imperfect Church – I Corinthians
Part 14 – Win by Losing
I Corinthians 9:9-27

As followers of Christ, our freedom should be limited by our love for others.

Quote

We should be willing to do anything short of sin to reach those no one else is reaching. - Craig Groeschel

Winning souls is not a profession for those who are trained. It is a pursuit of every believer of Christ.

Survey

Over 60% of “born-again” Christians in America between the ages of 18 and 39 believe that Buddha, Muhammad and Jesus are all valid paths to salvation.

Quote

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. – John Wesley

Sometimes winning others to Christ means being willing to lose (laying aside) our freedoms in Christ.