

## Relevance: Meeting People Where They Are

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**Main idea:** To effectively share the love of Christ, we must be willing to adapt our approach and meet people in their own contexts, just as Paul did, highlighting the transformative power of the Gospel in diverse environments.

**Key Verses:** "...I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."  
**(9:22-23 ESV)**

### Key Principles:

- True freedom in Christ enables us to become servants to others, prioritizing their salvation over our personal preferences.
- Humility and self-sacrifice open doors for the gospel to reach diverse groups of people.
- Being relevant to others means understanding their background and struggles while standing firm in biblical truth.
- Every effort in adapting to others should be driven by the goal of spreading the gospel.
- The Gospel does not need our help, but God created us to creatively and compassionately share His message with many diverse groups in the world.
- A life centered on Christ's mission embraces sacrifice and flexibility for the sake of seeing others come to faith.

### Discussion:

1. Do you know how to share the gospel with someone? If so, who in your life can you share the gospel with this week? If not, who in your local church can equip you to share the gospel?
2. In what practical ways would Paul have made himself a slave to Jews or Gentiles to win them to Jesus? How can you make yourself a slave to others to win them?
3. What reasons might Christians give for why they will not change or bend themselves for others? Why are these reasons *not* valid excuses?
4. Could giving up your preferences so that you might win others to Jesus open the door to temptations for bitterness? If yes, how so? What must be done to prevent bitterness as you give up rights and preferences to win others to Jesus?
5. What blessings does a Christian receive when an unbeliever starts following Jesus?

### Prayer:

- Focus having wisdom and discernment in reaching people with the gospel.
- Pray:
  - For a heart of humility and servanthood for the sake of leading others to Christ.
  - For boldness in stepping out to engage those who are different from us.
  - For opportunities to meet people where they are and show them the love of Christ.

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1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- I. Be willing to deny yourself personally. 9:19**
  - 1. You can only have one master.
  - 2. You can serve all people.
  
- II. Be willing to deny yourself religiously. 9:20**
  - 1. Your identity is in Christ alone.
  - 2. Your mission is to share Christ with all.
  
- III. Be willing to deny yourself socially. 9:21**
  - 1. You are no longer under the law of Moses.
  - 2. You are now under the law of Christ.
  
- IV. Be willing to deny yourself completely. 9:22-23**
  - 1. You should accommodate all people. 9:22
  - 2. You can accomplish God's purpose. 9:23

NEXT WEEK:  
**A Solemn Charge**  
Deuteronomy 4:1-40