

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“ALL for the Gospel ”

(1 Corinthians 9:19-27 & 1 Cor. 3:12-15)

What would you be willing to do rescue someone from certain death? Jump into snake pit? Dog attack?

MAIN POINT: God’s love encourages us to sacrifice much in order to effectively share the gospel with lost & broken-hearted around us. Paul’s Thesis statement. ²³ I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

READ 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

¹⁹ For though I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may gain more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might gain Jews; to those who are under the Law, *I became as one* under the Law, though not being under the Law myself, so that I might gain those who are under the Law; ²¹ to those who are without the Law, *I became as one* without the Law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might gain those who are without the Law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak; I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. ²³ **I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.**

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So they *do it* to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way as not *to run* aimlessly; I box in such a way, as ²⁷ to avoid hitting air; ²⁷ but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” -

John MacArthur states that in order to win others to the gospel, Paul practiced both **self-denial** and **self-control**

Vs. 19: For though I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may gain more. =gospel Paul willingly embraces cultural contextualization and uncomfortable relationships & circumstances in order to better communicate the gospel to different groups of people. **WHY? b/c of his Conversion and Conviction**

- **CONVERSION:**

- Paul has been radically converted from death to life. He has not gotten over it. He’s been RESCUED – **Must tell**
***Cody Long – rescued a lady from a burning car. She told everyone her story. Invited him to church – saved!**

- **CONVICTION:**

- Paul is putting a value on both his comfort/rights and others’ SOULS. Should we follow his example?
- Paul is stating that his comfort/rights are less valuable/less important than peoples’ eternal souls.
***we all put values on things we trade/want. Why is Gold so valuable? Diamonds? = Rarity (Sarai engaged)**

***What do you value more in your life than the souls of others? - Your actions prove it.**

So what is Cultural Contextualization. Learning heart language, culture, traditions, & customs to better understand and share the gospel in an effective way. **France. Evangelism. = sensitivity to surroundings (Muslims: women/bare shoulders sharing with men). Tribes of Africa – begin with Elders, then tribe.*

= we are never to change the message. The gospel is the same. – Inuit Canada (baby seal vs. lamb)

= But we are to be aware of the culture in which we are sharing the gospel = (Our LIVES and Words)

Vs. 20: To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might gain Jews; to those who are under the Law, *I became as one* under the Law, though not being under the Law myself, so that I might gain those who are under the Law; Though not under the law anymore, Paul is a slave to Christ and Christ’s Law: (Love God and others), Paul openly practices Jewish customs, observes rituals, high-holy days, embraced rigorous dietary restrictions – all because he embraced contextualization.

- To the Jews Paul embraced the O.T. language, ideology, the Jewish Law and varying complexities. (Studied)
- With the Jews, Paul started with the presupposition of monotheism, a personal God revealed in history and recorded in the O.T. – Paul appealed to the Law, the prophecies, and promises of God concerning the Messiah in order to reason with the Jews that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Messiah.

Vs. 21: to those who are without the Law, [Gentiles/Greeks] *I became as one* without the Law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might gain those who are without the Law. To the Greeks, he adapted to their customs and traditions in order to embrace gospel contextualization. The Greeks loved Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Debate.

- With the Jews, Paul started with the presupposition of monotheism; with the Greeks Paul started with the presupposition of polytheism, and the idea that man's cognition or ability to reason can lead him to truth. Paul used both philosophy and creation to point the Greeks to the ONE Creator God, and the inevitability of moral evil/sin.

Vs. 22: To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak; To the uneducated, to the impoverished, the sick, the lonely, the discouraged, the poor and the desperate.

...I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some.

Paul's Thesis statement, his main point.

²³ I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Self-sacrifice/self-denial Think about that. Every decision, the gospel and who can hear it, is factored into Paul's thinking. Gospel is a high value. Peoples' souls are a High value to God, but typically, not to us. (Heavenly oriented vs. earthly)

As Paul leans into his own self-denial (comfort/rights/excuses), he also embraces spiritual Self-control

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So they *do it* to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way as not *to run* aimlessly; I box in such a way, as [□]to avoid hitting air; ²⁷ but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." For Paul, spiritual longevity means being able to share the gospel with his life (year after year). **Our words & lives match? St. Francis: "Share the gospel, if needed use words"**

- Our life is a living testimony to the world **IF** what you say you believe is real. They are watching!!

- Your life, your testimony, can ruin the gospel for others if we do not watch our life (holiness)

***Ghandi, "I would be compelled to become a Christian if it were not for other Christians."**

MAIN POINT: God's love encourages us to sacrifice much in order to effectively share the gospel with lost & broken-hearted around us.

-1 Cor. 3:12-15 "Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test [□]the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet *only* so as through fire." – THIS is our spiritual work on the earth: WORSHIP AND WORK for God's glory!!!!

APPLICATION:

- What is the culture that God has put you in, to be a light for the gospel? (God-ordained, predestined YOUR being here at this precise moment in time and history) . . .for what??? **Comfort/rights Vs. SOULS??=God's Glory**
- Acts 17:26-27 "and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find *Him*, though He is not far from each one of us."
- Remember you are a believer today, because someone cared enough about you to share the gospel

We have a five-fold Task in Loving others to gospel (Romans 2:4)

1. We are to **PRAY** that we would be useable in God's Hand (Close and Clean to the Savior)
2. We are to ask God to help us truly **SEE** the needs around us.
3. We are to **ENGAGE** with those who have these needs. Begin a relationship with them.= They are valuable to God
4. We are to **MEET** those needs as we invite others to help us
5. We are to **SHARE** the gospel (the good news of salvation) with those we are meeting their needs (spiritual vs physical needs)

ROMANS ROAD: (We all have sinned. We are spiritually dead in our sin. We need a savior. Jesus is that Savior! We each one need to ask Jesus to forgive us of our sin; we need to repent of our sin; and ask & **trust** Jesus to save us.)

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and all fall short of God's glory." = Everyone is a sinner. We are all separated.

Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin is death, but the **GIFT** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still in sin, Jesus died for us."

Romans 10: 9-10 – "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, & believe in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:13 – "For Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved."

1 John 5:13 – "I have written these things to you who believe in (trust upon) the name of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, that you might **KNOW** that you have eternal life." (You can have confidence that God promises salvation!)