

## Our Relationship with the World

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

### Review From Last Week:

- A. We cannot have the kind of full and rich life in this world without a genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- B. Nor can we have the kind of relationships with people of the world without changing how we view them: the way Jesus did.

### Introduction:

- A. If you have the truth, then evangelizing ...
  1. Is not about *mechanics* (*saying all the right things, at the right time, etc.*)
  2. Is not about a 10 month “discipleship program” for the person you’re trying to reach.
  3. It’s all about God and the soul needing Him. cp. **Matt. 22:37-39; Matt. 28:18-20**

### Discussion:

**Committed to doing “all things for the sake of the gospel” 1 Corinthians 9**

#### I. Become a Slave to All Men

- A. RE: last week’s “relationship with God.”
- B. By having a genuine relationship with God we’ll learn how to be free from all men. cp. **Col. 2:16ff**
- C. Ultimately, however, a true follower of Christ voluntarily gives up His freedom (**Phil. 2:5ff**) and becomes a slave to all men. **1 Cor. 9:19-23**
- D. **Of Paul: 1 Corinthians 9**
  1. To the Jew, he became *as a Jew ... to win Jews. v. 20*
  2. To those under the law *as under the Law. v. 20*
  3. To those who are without law ... **v. 21**
  4. To the weak ... **v. 22**

*For the sake of the gospel, become a servant to all in bringing the gospel to them.*

#### II. Serve With Your Eye on the PRIZE

- A. **Your purpose:** you’re made to glorify God.
  1. To be a vessel of honor. **Rom. 9:21**
  2. A workmanship made for good works. **Eph. 2:10**
- B. **Your goal:** “do all things for the sake of the gospel”:
  1. Every action should compel you to reach the lost.
  2. Your attitude compels you to do it with the mindset of Christ.
- C. **Serve with self-control.**
  1. Your actions: follows through with the purpose set forth.
  2. Bottom: you (voluntarily) make your body a slave to all, for the sake of the gospel.
- D. **Serve with endurance.**

#### III. The Net Result: 1st Century Conversions in the 21st Century!

- A. **Biblical conversion** stories took place very shortly after having first received the word. **Acts 2, Acts 8, Acts 10**, etc.
- B. **NOTE:** inferred – some went a long period before becoming disciples of Christ ... namely, Jesus’ family, various Pharisees, priests, etc.
- C. Today:
  1. It is not only reasonable to expect people in this world to hear and believe in the same hour ...
  2. ... It happens! ☞

### Conclusion:

- A. **The reward is great:** valuable souls will hear the good news from vessels of honor.
- B. Are you willing to “run in such a way” to reach the gospel to this world?