

Engaged with the Mission

1 Cor. 9:19-23

Getting Started

- ❖ Our Church's Mission is: "bringing gospel restoration to people's deepest needs and to our broken world". There are many examples of brokenness in our world. Which ones burden you the most?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. When engaging the culture, it is crucial that we contextualize the Gospel.
2. We must not allow today's contextualization to become tomorrow's conviction. (v.22)
3. Our culture needs to see and hear from us a winsomely faithful proclamation of the Gospel. (v.16,21)

Takeaway Truth: God has called each of us to be on Mission for Him, engaging the various cultures in which He has placed us.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon text and the sermon and answer the following:
 - How does Paul understand Christian freedom and liberty relative to his and our Mission?
 - Is there any significance to Paul using the word "win/won" 5 times in these few verses? What does this imply to you?
 - What do you think Paul, who was a Jew, meant when he said "To the Jew, I became as a Jew"? Why would it have been important for him to live this way?
- ❖ Reread this passage from the perspective of The Message translation and discuss the following questions.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (The Message)

¹⁹ Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: ²⁰ religious, nonreligious, ²¹ meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, ²² the defeated, the demoralized—whatever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. ²³ I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!

- Can you think of some "demands and expectations" that you are free of but which you might acknowledge and adjust your lifestyle in order to further the Kingdom or influence someone for Christ?
- Examine the categories of people in verses 20-22. What would it look like to serve these different groups for the sake of the gospel?
- What are some ways we can "enter their world and try to experience things from their point of view" while "keeping our bearings in Christ"?

Engaged with the Mission

1 Cor. 9:19-23

Apply It!

- ❖ What do you learn from this passage about living missionally with various groups of people?
- ❖ How does the Gospel free us and empower us to engage with others in this way?
- ❖ Who in your life right now needs to be served in the way Paul is encouraging us to serve and live?

Think About It!

Freedom is important, but in Christian terms it is never the freedom of a sub-atomic particle, to whizz around in all directions in an apparently random fashion. It is always freedom for: for the Messiah, for God's people, for those who need the gospel. (NT Wright)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

January 9, 2022 | Baptism of the Lord

WORSHIP SONGS

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, 2019

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore, our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new every morn. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father, so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest the poor. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the payment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

GRAVES INTO GARDENS

Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Christ Brown, Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer, 2019

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me. Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough. Then You came along and put me back together. And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

Oh there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You. Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness. May failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all, and You still call me friend. 'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley. There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

You turn to mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes. You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can. You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies. You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2001

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song; This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striving cease. My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For ev'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again! And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand; Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

FOUND IN YOU

Words and Music by Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, and Paul Baloche, 2013

We're reaching out to welcome You God. Fill this place again with Your song. Flood our thoughts with wonder and awe. Give us a greater glimpse of a never changing God.

All we want and all we need is found in You, found in You. Jesus, every victory is found in You, found in You.

Open wide our hearts now to Yours. Every fear bow down to Your love, that we would see like never before. Give us a greater glimpse of a never changing God.

In your presence there is freedom. In your presence we are made whole.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 104; Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:29-34
MONDAY | Ps. 5; Genesis 2:4-25; Hebrews 1:1-14; John 1:1-18
TUESDAY | Ps. 42; Genesis 3:1-24; Hebrews 2:1-10; John 1:19-28
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 1; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 2:11-18; John 1:29-42
THURSDAY | Ps. 16; Genesis 4:17-26; Hebrews 3:1-11; John 1:43-51
FRIDAY | Ps. 65; Genesis 6:1-8; Hebrews 3:12-19; John 2:1-12
SATURDAY | Ps. 98; Genesis 6:9-22; Hebrews 4:1-13; John 2:13-22

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Holy God, we know that we do not need to fear for you have redeemed us; you have called us by name, we are yours. You promise that when we pass through the waters, you will be with us; and when we walk through the fire, we shall not be burned, for you are the Lord our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior. Amen.



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