

1 Corinthians 8:3-9:27

All Things to All People

Meet people where they are at in order to save some.

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22b

1. All things to all people.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

2a. Paul's example: Sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 9:1-18

- What are you willing to sacrifice to meet people where they are at?

2b. A contemporary example: Restraint.

1 Corinthians 8:4-13

- In what ways are you willing to show restraint to meet people where they are at?
- Is my behavior encouraging people to focus on Christ or ignore Christ?

2c. Christ's example: Humility.

Philippians 2:3-8

- In what ways are you willing to be humble to meet people where they are at?

3. Why does this matter?

1 Corinthians 9:23-26

- People will either go to heaven or hell.
- The eternal and present reward for participating in someone's salvation journey is incredible.

Reflection Questions

1. Read 1 Cor. 9:19-22.

- a. What is your first gut reaction to the phrase, "all things to all people to save some"?
- b. Is there any danger in meeting people where they are at?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

- a. What is the goal and motivation behind Paul's sacrifice?
- b. What types of modern examples align with Paul's sacrifice (either of people you know, have heard of, or just an idea you might have)?

3. Read 1 Cor. 8:4-13

- a. How could the idea of showing restraint be abused?
- b. When is showing restraint helpful?
- c. Is the question, "Is my behavior encouraging people to focus on Christ or ignore Christ," helpful or not? How?

4. Read Phil. 2:3-8

- a. Why does Paul use the example of Christ in order to encourage us to put others first?
- b. How is it humbling to volunteer for Sunday School?
- c. What other ways could we be humble and put the interests of others before our own (big or small)?

5. Read 1 Cor. 9:23-27

- a. Is this energizing?
- b. Do you feel like being reminded about heaven and hell is a guilt trip?
- c. Share a story about a time you lead someone to Christ. How did you feel?