



Introduction

This week, we heard a sermon from 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, where Paul writes about becoming all things to all men in order to save some. In the sermon, we were challenged to reorient our lives, like Paul, in order to reach people with the gospel of Christ.

Before Your Small Group Meeting

Listen to the sermon from Dec. 5.

Read 1 Corinthians 9.

Prayer

Open with a prayer asking God to send his Spirit as you begin to discuss his preached Word.

Group Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 9 aloud as a group.

The German reformer, Martin Luther wrote: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

1. What do you think about Luther’s quote? How does the quote connect to this passage and the sermon? What is your reaction to the suggestion that you should become a “servant of all”?

2. Pastor J.D. shared three ways Paul's words impact what we do as a church. What were they, and which one of them was the most challenging for you?

In the sermon, we heard many ways this passage challenges us to participate in God's plan to reach the nations. Consider some of them.

- Have you thought about how your career can contribute to the Great Commission?
- Would you pray about fostering or adopting?
- Can you critique your own culture?
- Is there an opinion that you need to dial back so as not to be a distraction to the gospel?
- What preferences do you need to forgo to make space for others to hear the gospel?
- Will you set aside one night a month to invite a non-churched person from your neighborhood, job, or sports team over?
- Whom could you invite to start reading the Word with you? Or to come to church with you?

3. Which of the above speak to you? What do you think God is calling you to do personally in response to this sermon?

Paul strikes a delicate balance of engaging the lost, while remaining fully committed to Christ. This reminds us of Jesus' words in John 17:14–19 about being “in the world” but not “of the world.”

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

4. Is your passion for winning people to Christ growing or shrinking? Additionally, as you engage the world, make sure you are not in danger of compromising your commitment to Christ. As you consider your efforts to reach the lost, are you becoming more like them in any *unhealthy ways*?

Prayer

As you share prayer requests this week, be sure to share how God is leading you to love non-Christians over the holidays. Who is God putting on your heart? Pray for God to save them. Ask God for an open door for the gospel. Ask the Spirit to give you ways of becoming a servant to that person, so that you might win them.