

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing (1 Corinthians 9:15-23)**

Date: **October 30, 2016**

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul tackled the issue of eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. He told the Corinthians to lay down their rights to eating meat sacrificed to idols for the sake of the weaker Christians in their midst whose consciences had trouble with such a practice. In 1 Corinthians 9:1-14, Paul explained why he is entitled to a salary as a minister of the gospel. Those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel (v. 14). In this week's study, Paul now explains that he has foregone that right to a salary. He has done this so that he can leverage his denial of a salary to add legitimacy to his gospel ministry. Paul understands that he has been entrusted with a stewardship. He has been called to preach Christ and him crucified. His entire life revolves around this purpose. His decisions revolve around the advancement of the gospel. His finances are used for the purpose of gospel ministry. He leverages his ethnicity, his background, and his social status for the furtherance of the gospel. In this week's study, based on Paul's example, we will see that we too must use everything we have, including our rights and platforms, for the sake of gospel.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 9:15-23 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. Read verses 15-18. Why does Paul conclude that he has no grounds for boasting when he preaches the gospel? If he has no grounds for boasting in his preaching, what then is his cause for boasting?
  - b. Why does Paul forsake his salary even though he is entitled to one?
  - c. What are some historical examples of people that have made sacrifices for the sake of the gospel? What are some examples of sacrifices that you or people you know have made for the sake of the gospel?
  - d. Paul left behind a very lucrative career as a Pharisee to become a tentmaker. Why would Paul have walked away from his former life? How does Paul's story validate his claim that he has seen the resurrected Christ?
  - e. Paul leveraged his financial situation for the sake of the gospel. How are you leveraging your finances in a way that proves you believe in the resurrected Christ?

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- f. What is the difference between the groups of people Paul refers to as “Jews” and “those under the law” (v. 20)? What does it mean that Paul himself is not under the law (v. 20)?
  
- g. What are some examples in Scripture of Paul using his Jewishness to win Jews to Christ? What are some examples in Scripture of Paul becoming as one outside of the law? Hint: See the book of Acts.
  
- h. What does Paul’s example teach us about contextualizing the gospel? Why is contextualization not synchronization? How can you leverage your bloodlines, family relationships, career, life situation, possessions, etc. for the sake of the gospel?
  
- i. In verse 23, Paul writes “that I may share with them in its blessings.” What does he mean by this?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
  
2. Paul used his finances for the furtherance of the gospel. How can we use our finances for the sake of the gospel?
  
3. What are some pitfalls that people can fall in to when they seek to contextualize the gospel? How did Paul contextualize the gospel? What are some examples of ways we can contextualize the gospel?
  
4. How can you leverage your family relationships, ethnicity, background, etc. for the sake of the gospel? In what other ways can you practically and realistically leverage things in your life for the sake of the gospel? How can you use your parenting, your career, your education, your social media accounts, etc. for the gospel?
  
5. Why should we seek to follow Paul’s example? What is the motivation behind evangelism and contextualization?

**Accountability Question**

What is something that you would like to start leveraging for the gospel? How can we hold you accountable to do so?