

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 1 Corinthians 9:25 (ESV)

So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.
1 Corinthians 9:26 (ESV)

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)

4. Conclusion

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message. What was new that you didn't know?
2. Why are self-denial and self-discipline essential to reaching people with Jesus? If those qualities are missing in a church, why will that church become ineffective at reaching their community?
3. What preferences do churches hold onto that end up hindering them from reaching the lost? What non-biblical preferences do you have that hold you back from reaching those around you who need Jesus?
4. In Acts 16:1-3, we see Timothy willing to undergo the pain of circumcision to become more effective at sharing the gospel with the Jews. What changes have been made at CrossWinds, to help the church better reach modern culture, that were painful for you? How does Timothy's willingness to undergo the pain of circumcision for the sake of evangelism give you a better perspective on painful changes made for the sake of evangelism at CrossWinds?
5. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul describes the level of self-discipline needed to reach the lost. Reaching the lost takes as much discipline and intentionality as an Olympic athlete competing in a race. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. What are the similarities between evangelism and athletics according to these verses? How does this realization help you better share the gospel?
6. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What does Jesus' willingness to humble himself and give up his rights to save us teach us about what it will take for us to reach our community? What other lessons can we learn from these verses about change and giving up our rights to reach others with the gospel?



1 Corinthians 9:19-27 – Embrace Change For The Gospel

October 31, 2021

1. We are tirelessly focused on reaching people with Jesus, willing to leave the 99 for the 1.
6. We change and give up what we like for the sake of others. We are known as a church that embraces change.
2. We have made space for new people to serve and lead.

...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

1. Why was Paul effective at sharing Jesus?

A. He had the right message.

B. He had a compelling motive.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

C. He had a good plan.

D. He was willing to sacrifice almost anything to better communicate the good news of Jesus.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 1 Corinthians 9:19 (ESV)

2. I must be willing to deny my preferences to effectively share the gospel.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 1 Corinthians 9:19 (ESV)

...for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 2 Timothy 2:9–10 (ESV)

A. Paul accommodated Jewish culture to reach the Jews.

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 1 Corinthians 9:20 (ESV)

Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood." Acts 15:19–20 (ESV)

"For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues." Acts 15:21 (ESV)

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:1–3 (ESV)

B. Paul accommodated the Gentile culture to reach the Gentiles.

To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 1 Corinthians 9:21 (ESV)

C. Paul accommodated the weak to reach the weak.

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak... 1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)

Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. Acts 21:23–24 (ESV)

...I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)

3. I must be willing to exercise self-discipline to effectively share the gospel.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV)