

Called to be... Passionate for Proclaiming Christ

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

INTRODUCTION: Most people find that they have a passion for something! This weekend we have some passionate football fans visiting central Indiana. The Apostle Paul had a passion for being used by God to win people to faith in Christ.

1 Cor. 9:19 "...I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible [for Christ]."

1 Cor. 9:22 "...I have become all thing to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

I. COUNTERFEIT PASSIONS

- A. Be _____
- B. Be a _____

II. PASSION FOR PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

Our passion is rooted in the truth of our salvation in Jesus Christ. (**John 14:6, Acts 4:12**)

Evidence of the Apostle Paul's passion to proclaim Christ

- 1. His attitude toward the _____ (**1 Cor. 9:20**)
- 2. His attitude toward the _____ (**1 Cor. 9:21**)
- 3. His attitude toward the _____ (**1 Cor. 9:22**)
- 4. His attitude toward all _____ (**1 Cor. 9:22**)

III. PROCLAIMING JESUS TODAY CHRIST IN WORD AND DEED

- A. We believe the truth of the Gospel. (**1 Cor. 9:23**)
- B. We become the light of Christ in a dark world. (**Acts 1:8**)
- C. Failure is not an option!
- D. We share in the _____ of the Gospel. (**1 Cor. 9:23**)

CONCLUSION: May God ignite a genuine passion in us to be used by Him to win people for Christ.

Going Deeper

Feb. 4/5, 2012

Bible Reading – 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

1. OPEN

- A. It seems like the Indianapolis area has a passion for sports. Do you think this passion has gotten out of control? Should there be other priorities for our community that rank above our desire to be the host for major sporting events? Is the attention and sacrifice of hosting the Super Bowl worth the effort for local vendors, sports enthusiasts, and our national reputation?
- B. Name two things that you are passionate about...

2. DIG

- A. The Apostle Paul has a passion for sharing the Gospel. Which verses from our passage bring this out?
- B. What is Paul's motivation for shaping his life around the needs and concerns of others? (see vs. 19-23)
- C. When Paul says that he is willing to "become all things to all men" (vs. 23) so that they may be saved, what kinds of things do you think he was willing to do or compromise in order for the Gospel to take root? (see vs. 20-22 and also 1 Cor. 8:4-13)
- D. From which groups of people do you think Paul was receiving criticism as a result of flexibility for the sake of the Gospel?
- E. In what way is Paul's attitude reflective of that which we see in Christ Jesus Himself? (See Phil 2:3-11)

(over)

3. REFLECT

- A. Are there groups of people in our community who aren't being reached with the good of Jesus Christ? How can we apply the principles of scripture in vs. 19-23? What do you think we could be doing to reach these people?
- B. Has there been a time in your life when you had to "swallow" your own personal preconceptions and judgments in order to reach out to someone in love?
- C. How can a person determine which of their personal principles can be compromised and which ones should stay firm? (See Christ's words in John 8:31,32)