

Becoming All to All

1 Corinthians 9:19-23
Shiv Muthukumar

Schedule

- 9:00 – Opening & prayer Tom Bilbro
- 9:10 – Hymns
- 9:20 – Session I – Becoming All to All (1 Cor. 9:19-23) Shiv Muthukumar
- 10:00 – BREAK

- 10:10 – Session II – Crossing Cultures for Christ (part 1) Zach Kushner
- 10:50 – BREAK

- 11:00 – Session III – Crossing Cultures for Christ (part 2) Zach Kushner
- 11:20 – Q & A
- 11:30 – Corporate Prayer Zach Kushner
- 12:00 – CLOSE

My journey

- 4 cultures in me
- The Missionals converted me
- Cultural dysphoria; healing
- Call to cross-cultural ministry: Student, Indo, American, suburban,

Sharing gospel across cultures

- Have you? Unique challenges?

- Imagine: Sudden call to Thailand (gifts unchanged). What will you do?

Paul the Apostle

- Saul: Jewish Pharisee from Jerusalem, Persecutor (Phil. 3:5-6)
- Paul: Roman citizen of Tarsus (Cilicia)
- Conversion: Encountering Christ (Acts 9) – Damascus of Syria
- Call: Apostle to Gentile ministry (Gal. 2:8-9)

Corinth

- Paul's 2nd Journey: Acts 18 (labored there 18 months)
- City: Business + Vice + Religion (NYC + Vegas + LAX)
- Church: spiritual gifts (1:6), heteropraxy
- **Diversity:** leaders (1), marital (7), religious (8-10), wealth (11), gifts (12-14), beliefs (15)

Need to hear Paul's ministry Secret

- Starbucks Coffee: Geography is a flavor!

Freedom to be a slave! (v. 19)

- **Status:** *For though I am free from all: From? How? Stop here?*
- **Method:** *I have made myself a servant to all: I am God's method.*
- **Purpose:** *that I might win more of them*

Context: Idol-meat Sandwich

- **Principle:** Ch. 9 || Ch. 13 (love || surrendering rights)
- Ch. 8 – Knowledge a stumbling block (for both “strong” & “weak”)
- Ch. 9 – Paul’s surrenders apostolic rights
 - **PRINCIPLE:** Put no **obstacle** in the *way of the gospel* of Christ (v. 12b)
 - **QUESTION:** What are the obstacles to the gospel?
- Ch. 10 – Watch out for idolatry! Caution: v. 12. Principle: v. 24.

Four situations, singular purpose

- To the Jew I became *as a Jew*: (Paul, aren’t you a Jew?)
- To those under the law I as one under the law [**observing customs**]
- To those lawless as one who is lawless [**not insisting on customs**]
 - But under the **law of Christ** (where else?)
- To the weak I became weak [**avoiding cultural ways**]
- Why not say: to the “strong” I became “strong”?

Secret Restated

- *I have become all to all*: meaning of servant (conformed to people)
 - How different from “pleasing men” (Gal. 1:10)?
- *So that by all means*: Willing to enter any cultural milieu
- **Save** some? Salvation purpose.
 - Paul forgot his theology! It is God who saves. Instrumentality emphasized.

Purpose Restated

- *I do it all for the sake of the gospel*
 - Not the **content** of the gospel – unchanged – (Galatia had that problem)
 - But the **progress/way** of the gospel – unhindered
- that I might become a fellow-partaker of it with them.
 - Paul’s glorious humility

Being a missionary: Take away

- **Gospel centered. Culture oriented.** (God centered. People oriented.)
- Stumble on Christ. Not culture. (right kind of offense!)
- Serving Christ. Serving people. (No dichotomy!)
- Not serving self. Not serving customs.
- Love God and love your neighbor translated to missions & evangelism.

Questions

- What are some obstacles to Christ that we have put?
- How are some ways in which we can be all to all? (Concrete)