“I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE”

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

Key Verse: 9:22

1. What did Paul mean by saying, “I am free and belong to no one”? (19a,14–15) In contrast to this freedom, what did he intentionally do? (19b) What did he mean when he said he became “a slave to everyone”? (2Co4:5; Gal5:13; 1Pe4:10) How did Jesus himself set the example? (Mk10:44–45; Jn13:14–15; Heb2:14a,17a)
2. What was Paul’s motive in making himself a slave to everyone? (19a) Note how often he repeats the word “win” (19–22). What did he mean by this? (22b; 10:33; cf. Pr11:30; Ro15:2; 2Ti2:10) Why should we also have this as our goal? (e.g. Jas5:19–20)
3. How did Paul become “like a Jew” and one “under the law”? (20; cf. Ac16:3; 17:2–3; 21:20–26) What do his words, “…though I myself am not under the law,” mean to us? (20; cf. Ro6:14; Gal5:1,6)
4. How did Paul become “like one not having the law”? (21; cf. 10:27; Gal2:12–14; 3:28) What do his words, “…though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law” mean to us? (Mt5:17–20; Ro8:4; 13:8–10)
5. Who did Paul mean by “the weak”? (22a; 8:9–13; 1:26–27) How did he become “weak”? (2:1–5; 4:9–13) How could he “become all things to all people”? (12:13; Ro1:14; Col3:11) How can we imitate Paul’s example, especially in ministering to a wide diversity of college students?
6. What did Paul mean when he said he did it all “for the sake of the gospel”? (23a; 9:12b; cf. Mk8:35; Gal2:5) What does it mean to “share in its blessings”? (23b; cf. 1Pe5:1; 1Jn1:3)