



It's the GOSPEL – STUPID!!

1 Cor 9:15-27, 10:31-11:1

- Does not make full use of his 'rights' v15,18
- What does it mean for Paul to be a servant of all? V19
- Why is he a servant of all? V19
- What does it mean to 'become all things to all people'?
- What does it not mean?
- What is his motivation in all this? 9v23, 10v31,33

All things to All People for the Sake of the Gospel

- NOT – "as a jew I try to become like a gentile" !!
- BUT – as a gospel-man, as a Jesus-follower – I become like a jew to reach jews, like a gentile to reach gentiles
- Our identity in Christ super-cedes every other 'identity' we have – if we are 'gospel-people'.
- What does that mean/look like in practice?

All things to all people

A willingness:

- To put my personal like/dislikes to one side
 - To put no unnecessary barriers/stumbling blocks before unbelievers EXCEPT the offence of the gospel itself
 - To put myself out for the sake of the other
- 1 Cor 10:31-33

Think Gospel!!

ON A SUNDAY

What are the implications of that for what I/We do:

- Before the service?
- During the service?
- After the service?

Before the Service

- Pray – Sat night/ Sunday morning – Read the passage
 - Do I go to the service – eg evening service
 - What time do I arrive?
 - Where do I sit?
 - Do I 'look out' for others?
- Sidespeople/Welcomers:
- Welcome (sensitive to people's body language)
 - Names – better to risk offence than ignore
 - Show to seat? Creche, Sunday Club, Sparks
 - Introduce to others/explain the service
 - Are we a friendly church? – Ask the newcomer

During the Service

- The importance of comfort – how would you/do you treat a visitor to your home?
- Good technology
- Good music and 'heartfelt' worship
- Service that is accessible (but not 'dumbed-down')
- The Importance of Explanations – careful about 'in-house' comments

After the Service

In some ways as important as the service itself

- Don't speak to the vicar!!
- Do stay and come through to the hall
- Invite and accompany new people
- Introduce to others
- Look for people who are new/on their own
- Serve good quality refreshments – free!!!
- Talk about the service/sermon