

1 Corinthians 9¹⁹⁻²³

Becoming all things to all men

Lord's day evening: 28 Jan 2007
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Introduction

How is this consistent with
"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world"? (Rom 12²)

1. A soul-winning spirit

A win-win situation (9¹⁹⁻²²)
A wise way of life (Prov 11³⁰)

2. A serving spirit

A free man willingly becomes a slave (9¹⁹)
A man not under the law becomes like one under the law (9²⁰)
A man under Christ's law becomes like one not having the law (9²¹)
A man on the lookout for ways & means (9²²)
A friend of tax-collectors & sinners (Matt 11¹⁹)

3. A salvation-oriented spirit

Is Paul trying to earn his salvation? (9²³)
What does he mean by wanting to share in the blessings? (9²³)

Conclusion

Is this man conformed or transformed? (Rom 12²)
The spirit of the world and the Spirit of God (1 Cor 2¹²)

Discussion

Brainstorm ideas on becoming all things to all men
How might we win our relatives?
How might we win our non-Christian friends?
How might we win our work-colleagues?
How might we win our neighbours?
How might we win the world?



Questions answered

- Should we be aiming to win souls?
- How did Paul go about winning souls?
- Some would say Paul was a compromiser? How would you answer that?
- What did Paul mean by saying he was willing to be a slave to everyone?
- When Paul says he became like one who did not have the law, did he mean that he was willing to ignore the 10 commandments for the sake of the gospel?
- Who was known as the friend of tax-collectors and sinners? How did He get this reputation? What are the implications of this for us?
- Was Paul trying to earn his salvation by becoming all things to all men?
- What does Paul mean by wanting to share in the blessings by becoming all things to all men?
- Was Paul conformed to the pattern of this world or the spirit of this world? To what was He willing to conform? How does this demonstrate a transformation by the renewal of his mind?
- What is incarnational evangelism?



Things to pray about

- Developing a soul-winning spirit
- Developing a serving-spirit
- Developing a salvation-oriented spirit



Search the Scriptures

- Why was Paul willing to have Timothy circumcised (Acts 16³), but in writing to the Galatians he was adamantly against circumcision (Gal 5)? Was Paul confused or inconsistent? What application does this have for us today?