

*Out of Your Comfort Zone: God's Surprising Challenge to Change the World – Week Three*

## ***Help Wanted: Missionaries to Our City***

*What does it look like to live your life “on mission”? – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 24-27*

**Main Idea:** When you decide to serve as a missionary to your community you embrace Paul's values in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

### **1. *PERSONAL VALUE – Missionaries are always thinking, “How will this help me lead friends to Christ?” 1 Corinthians 9:19b; 23***

- A. The objective is to win. 19:b, 23b
  - 1. Paul uses the word *win* five times. The word *win* sounds suspicious to us.
  - 2. What the word means
  - 3. You're not going to win everyone.
- B. This objective is a radical mindset. 9:23a
  - 1. Paul says, “I do all things for the sake of the gospel.”
  - 2. You can have two mindsets in the Christian life: consumerist and missional.
  - 3. Every biblical leader who made a difference had a missional mindset.
- C. To accomplish this objective, you need to radically defeat legalism in your life. 9:22b
  - 1. Paul says, “That by all means...”
  - 2. He's not talking moral or theological flexibility, but cultural flexibility.

### **2. *RELATIONSHIP VALUE – Missionaries are always asking, “How can I serve?” 1 Corinthians 9:19a, 24-27***

- A. Paul's service flowed from a mindset of freedom.
  - 1. Why don't Christians experience more freedom? Socialization vs. Sanctification
  - 2. Where does true freedom come from? We serve Christ not people, even Christian people.
- B. Paul's service was radical.
  - 1. He uses a radical word: slave.
  - 2. His service extends to all people.
- C. Paul's service was completely voluntary.
  - 1. You have to ask yourself the question, “How badly do I want to be on mission?”
  - 2. Paul will answer that question in 9:24-27.

### **3. *COMMUNICATION VALUE – Missionaries are always seeking cultural flexibility without moral compromise. 1 Corinthians 9:20-22a***

- A. What is common ground?
  - 1. Common ground: Shared areas of interest that form the foundation for bldg. relationships.
  - 2. Common ground is used by missionaries all over the world.
  - 3. Common ground is absolutely necessary for Christians in America, esp. today!
- B. Paul used common ground with Jews.
  - 1. He circumcised Timothy.
  - 2. He used the synagogue.
  - 3. How to reach religious non-Christians.
- C. Paul used common ground with Gentiles.
  - 1. Paul enters Athens. His spirit is provoked.
  - 2. Paul begins a conversation on common ground.
  - 3. Paul builds a message on common ground.
  - 4. People come to Christ.