

SEEKER SENSITIVE ~~WORSHIP~~ LIVES

1 Corinthians 9:1-27; 10:24-11:1; Matthew 28:18-20

OVERVIEW OF 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-11:1

- ✓ In 1 Corinthians 8-10, Paul is talking about our FREEDOM in Christ.
- ✓ In Christ, we are FREE to do all things – except sin.
- ✓ Paul is teaching us that our FREEDOM in Christ is for the purpose of winning many people to Christ (1 Cor.9:19-23).
- ✓ There were some instances in which Paul would eat meat sacrificed to idols. And there were some instances when he would not. The overriding principle was that whether he ate or drank he did it all to the glory of God, giving no offense to Jews or Greeks or to the church of God (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).

REVIEW OF WHAT WE’VE ALREADY LEARNED IN MATTHEW 1-2

- ✓ In Matthew 1-2 there is great emphasis on Jesus being made like us.
- ✓ Jesus was both “God with us” and “Man with us.” Truly human and truly divine. Born of the Virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ In His weakness, and in His humiliation, Jesus was able to identify with His people to save them from their sins (Matthew 1:21). Jesus was able to identify with the weak and foolish people of the world: lepers, tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes.

I. SEEKER SENSITIVE WORSHIP & A SEEKER SENSITIVE LIFE

- A. Worship should never become so “seeker sensitive” that the holiness of God is compromised or the service is retooled to cater to fallen man.
- B. Much of the excitement about seeker sensitive worship confuses worship with the Great Commission.
- C. Worship was not intended to be seeker sensitive.
- D. Our lives are to be seeker sensitive in the fullest sense of the term.
- E. The life of Jesus was for the purpose of seeking and saving (see Luke 15). If the life of Jesus is our life, if we have identified with Jesus through our faith and in baptism – then the purpose of our lives is to seek and save the lost.

II. BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN IS THE GREAT COMMISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- A. The Apostle Paul summarizes the seeker sensitive life in 1 Corinthians 9:20-23.
 1. If Paul was in the company of Jews – he would eat Kosher (1 Cor.9:20).
 2. If Paul was in the company of Gentiles he would eat non-Kosher (even eat food sacrificed to idols) (1 Cor.9:21).
 3. If Paul was with the weak – those overly sensitive about the issue of eating meat offered to idols – Paul would abstain (1 Cor.9:22; 10:28-29).
- B. It seemed like Paul’s actions were inconsistent – in one place, Paul would behave one way, but in another place, he would behave another way! But Paul’s integrity was shown by meeting people on their own level.

III. PUTTING THE FUN BACK INTO DAMENTALISM

- A. If our God created flesh isn’t good, then what are we saying about the Incarnation?
- B. In the Old Testament, God established barriers that fenced Israel from the nations (Leviticus 20:24-26). Jews couldn’t eat the same kinds of food (Leviticus 11; 21:5), they couldn’t wear the same kinds of clothing (Leviticus 19:19; Deuteronomy 22:11), and they didn’t look like the Gentiles (Leviticus 19:27).

C. In the New Testament, the fences of the food laws, clothing laws, and sideburn/beard laws have all been torn down (Ephesians 2:11-16; Colossians 2:20-23). God hasn't fenced us off from the nations anymore – instead He has sent us out **into** the nations to make disciples of them (Matthew 28:18-20).

D. If we have been _____ with Jesus in our baptism, then we should be _____ with Jesus in our witness to the world (see 1 Corinthians 9:23 with 1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

E. One of the most profound examples of Jesus tearing down the Old Testament fences is seen in Matthew 5-8.

- ✓ Who are the unclean people in your neighborhood?
- ✓ Who are the “lepers” that Jesus is challenging you to touch with the Gospel?
- ✓ Are you giving any signals in your life that is saying to non-Christians, “I don't like you! Get away from me! You are unclean!”
- ✓ Can you say with Paul, “I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some?”

F. Holiness is something more than keeping God's Law.

1. Holiness has the sense of a person's being devoted to God and set apart for service to the LORD.

2. What made priests “holy” in the Old Testament wasn't only their being moral men – it was their being **set apart for service** to the Lord.

3. The holiness of Jesus was not only demonstrated in His keeping the Law of God perfectly and perpetually and never sinning in His thoughts, words, or deeds. The holiness of Jesus was also demonstrated in His friendship with sinners and prostitutes and His being falsely accused of gluttony and drunkenness.

“Holiness, sacredness, consecration are not primarily moral categories. While priests were expected to be moral people, that was not what made them holy. It was their being set apart for special service to the Lord” (Longman, *Immanuel in Our Place* p.117).

“The more a Christian is like Jesus Christ – *really* like Jesus Christ – the more effective he is in evangelism” (Joseph Aldrich, *Life-Style Evangelism* [Multnomah Press 1981] p.51)

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Give thanks to God that Jesus was born and made like you, yet without sin. Commit your life to Jesus if you haven't already and be baptized. Pray that God would show you how you might better become all things to all men.

Should our church be “seeker sensitive” and if so, to what extent?

Should your life be “seeker sensitive” and if so, to what extent?

What was meant by the statement, “Worship was not intended to be seeker sensitive.”

Are you living a seeker sensitive life?

What is holiness?

How, in Matthew 5-8, did Jesus illustrate His tearing down of the Old Testament fences of the ceremonial law?

HOMEWORK: How can you reach unbelievers where they are at and be all things to them? Place yourself in a situation where God can best open a door of opportunity to talk with unbelievers about Jesus.

