

Maturity in the Church

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, March 7, 2021; Seth Johnson

Sermon Theme: Caricatures of Christianity have made people suspicious of those who share the hope of the gospel, the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul gives us help to shape the way we approach others with this glorious truth.

I. We Share the Gospel with No Strings Attached – Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-18

- A. What is the context surrounding 1 Corinthians 9:15-23? What are some of the “rights” that the Apostle Paul could have used but refrains from doing so?
- B. What are some characteristics of “caricatures of Christianity”? How can we identify the difference between caricatures and those who are true teachers of God's Word? And how do we overcome people’s expectations of what Christians are or think when sharing the gospel?
- C. How would you like to grow in boasting rightly in the Lord Jesus Christ rather than boasting in your own efforts when taking part in gospel conversations? How do we keep from sharing the gospel only with those who are like us or we think might benefit us or the church?

II. We Serve Others with Hope of Sharing Christ – Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- A. List the four types of people that Paul references in verses 19-23? How does Paul make himself a servant to these different types of people? What do you think that looked like on a daily basis?
- B. Verse 22b says, “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.” How would you interpret this verse? What do you think it looks like to “become all things” to all the people God has uniquely placed in your life?
- C. According to verses 22-23, what is the purpose of becoming all things to all people? Is this the way you typically view relationships in your life? Do you typically stick to casual conversations with others, or do you consistently create opportunities to interact on spiritual realities?

III. Application Questions

- A. What would you say are some characteristics of a mature Christian? How would you begin to identify and describe what a mature and healthy church should look like? How is 1 Corinthians 9:15-23 helpful in prioritizing what maturity looks like in the believer's life?
- B. How might you be adding offense that mutes your effectiveness at sharing the gospel?
- C. Who do you hope to win to Christ? Have you considered your motivation for why you hope to win them to Christ? What is your next step at sharing the gospel with them?