

SERMON: Sharing the Good News in Life and Love

July 8, 2018

SERIES: Love Where You Live

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Message of Good News.
- II. The Lifestyle of Love.
- III. The Internal Power.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. What is the gospel message? Why is it important that we as Christians continue to hear the gospel message (consider v.2 where Paul says “if you hold fast to the word I preached to you”).
2. We tend to think that what hinders the gospel is the culture around us. But what if it is our own attitudes that hinder the gospel’s spread? Can you identify how you personally or the modern church hinders the gospel message? Think about any attitudes or practices that might cause offense to others.
3. In order to reach our culture we need to be able to identify both the idols and the goodness of our culture. Are you able to do this? How are both of these essential to being able to effectively share the good news with others?

For example: In an Eastern culture, honor is a strength of that culture but also a potential idol. Showing how Jesus restores honor could be an effective witness. What about in our Western culture? What might be a strength but also an idol that could be used in sharing the gospel.

4. Re-read 1 Corinthians 9:22. Brainstorm as a group what “I have become all things to all people that I might win some” can mean in your context. What are some ways that you are doing this (At work? With neighbors? In what you eat or how you dress?)? How must this lifestyle be bounded by love? Remember- this is not just about meeting people’s personal preferences. It is about not being a stumbling block or offense to the gospel.

5. Re-read 1 Corinthians 9:19 and 21. The internal power for living as “all things to all people” is found in our new identity. Paul calls himself free (v.19) and under the law of Christ (v21). How do both of these point to our union with Christ? How does our union with Christ allow us to live in love as a “free slave to all?”

Pray: Praise God for the work of the gospel in your own life. Confess any ways that you have been an offense to the gospel. Ask God to work his love and freedom deep into your heart so that you can learn to “become all things to all people.”