

“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 9:19-21 NLT

[lectio] // 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

God knew what he was doing when he pursued Saul and confronted his entire life and history. What amazing grace. NOTHING was going to shake Paul from his mission to fulfill what God had appointed him to. Paul says it clearly, “I became a slave to all.” He submitted to ideologies and ways of doing faith that neither bound him nor persuaded him to believe in their ways. He lived by a code of service, “When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.” He didn’t enter into their sin, he entered into their weakness of faith. He recognized where they struggled and walked their beliefs right to Jesus. I find it interesting that Paul uses this phrase, “I did not IGNORE the law of God, I OBEY the law of Christ.” When with Gentiles, he lived apart from the law, yet did not dishonor it! How do we “win” those under the law of church and history to bring them to Jesus to engage them back to life?

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I am so fascinated by his mix of Old & New Covenant. I see your deal with Israel as your people, your chosen. I see them cycle in and out of sin and rebellion, blessing and brokenness. I see them struggle to accept your plan and drag their religious systems right into the New Testament and force people into compliance with a culture that they themselves failed at. I see them not accepting change or new (which isn’t new because it was your plan from the beginning). Now the church struggles with very similar circumstances. We (as a church) ARE the bride of Christ! The church is your plan to bring people (all people) to yourself. And yet, we find ourselves not accepting change and clinging onto old ways and systems that never worked well. We (I) desperately need you!

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root