

Prayer, Care & Share

I Corinthians 9:19-23 – “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²²to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

- **Vs. 22 [LB]** – “When I am with those whose consciences bother them easily, I don’t act as though I know it all and don’t say they are foolish; the result is that they are willing to let me help them. Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.”
- **The Local Church:** [and every Christian in it]
 - Not a “bless me club.”
 - Shouldn’t be “The best kept secret in town!”
 - Should be exciting, contagious, community minded and missions minded!

The Challenge: [They’ll need something to write on]

- In your circle of acquaintances, choose five who do not know Christ.
- Begin to pray – daily – for those five.
- Begin to look for opportunities to do something nice for them. [Care]
- Believe for upcoming opportunities to share the Good News with them.
- And finally, testify!

PRAYER

I Timothy 2:1-4 – “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

- **Intercessory Prayer = Love + Unselfishness.**
- **“intercessions” [Vine’s]** – primarily denotes “a lighting upon, meeting with”; then, “a conversation”; hence, “a petition;” it is a technical term for approaching a king, and so for approaching God in “intercession”; (i.e., seeking the presence and hearing of God on behalf of others).

Isaiah 59:15b-16 – “Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. ¹⁶He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him.”

- **John Wesley:** “It seems God is limited by our prayer life, that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him.”
- **Note** – How many times has God wanted to bless – help – protect – deliver – heal & couldn’t because there was no intercessor?

Ezekiel 22:30 – “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and **stand in the gap** before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”

- **BBE** – “take his station in the broken place”

Job 22:30 [AMP] – “He will even deliver the one [for whom you **intercede**] who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.”

- **Note:** we can intercede for people who are “not innocent.” [i.e., the guilty, impure, destined for punishment, weighed down by obligations]
- **Note:** our own “cleanness” makes our intercession effective.

HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF AROUND UNBELIEVERS

1. Be positive.

- **Romans 1:16, 17 [GNB]** – I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God’s power to save all who believe, first the Jews and also the Gentiles. For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, “The person who is put right with God through faith shall live.”
- **Romans 8:38, 39 [NLT]** – And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels can’t, and the demons can’t. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can’t keep God’s love away. ³⁹ Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Be approachable.

- **II Timothy 2:23-26 [NLT]** – Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ The Lord’s servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. ²⁵ They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will believe the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.
- **I Peter 3:15b-16a [NLB]** – “And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.”
- **Note:** You could win the argument and lose your opportunity to be a witness!

3. **Be authentic.**

- **Romans 12:9, 10** [NLT] – *Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.* ¹⁰ *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*
- **Note:** Christians should draw people, not drive them away! [Don't "spiritualize" everything]

4. **Be enthusiastic.**

- **Romans 12:11** [NLT] – *Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.*
- **Note:** how will you convince anyone about Jesus if you're not excited yourself?