

TAKEAWAY

Real Life Church

SERVING AND INFLUENCING

Sunday 5th May 2019

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we look at some verses in 1 Corinthians 9. We noted that in this passage, Paul, the author, explains something about the nature of his ministry.

DISCUSS

1. What is influence?
2. Who would you say has been an influence on what you believe? Why did they have that influence?

READ

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

EXPLAIN

Paul lived, spoke and wrote as though Jesus was the centre of all things. He went on to have a huge influence on the history of the world. Yet Paul wrote this at a time when Christianity was an obscure, small movement of people in the Roman Empire. He must have believed that as he served others and made Jesus known to them, God would act.

DISCUSS

3. Paul says, "I have made myself a slave to everyone." What does this mean? What is the difference between this and simply being a 'doormat' to others?
4. Why would Paul be so motivated to live in this sacrificial and servant-hearted way? Why might we?
5. What things about yourself do you suspect may need to change if you are to become more of a slave to everyone?
6. Paul adapted his ways according to who he was around. Around the Jews, he took on Jewish customs, and around the gentiles he took on gentile customs. What do you think Paul *did* compromise and what do you think

he *didn't*? What might it mean to follow this principle in our culture?

7. On Sunday, Matt said that Paul's approach was to immerse himself and not impose himself. Do you agree? What is the difference, practically speaking?

8. Paul wants to 'win' people – in other words, he is desperate to see other people, whoever they may be, become Christians. How far do you share this desire? (Maybe mark yourself on a scale of 1-10) What shapes your motivation in this area?

PRAY

Is there anyone you'd particularly like to see become a Christian? Pray for them as a group.

