

Vision '22

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Leader Guide

What We Value:
Intentionally Innovative

October 24, 2021

Main Passage: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Theological Theme

With both passion and discipline, Paul used every method at his disposal to take the initiative to form relationships with people who do not know Christ for the sake of the gospel.

Introduction

- ❓ In your mind, what makes a good friend? Who are the types of people you naturally gravitate toward?
- ❓ Why is it important that we develop real and genuine friendships with people who are different from us?

As a church, we value intentional innovation. That means we take our responsibility seriously to steward God's people and His resources for His glory. We do that in a couple of ways. One is that we have a strategic plan so that we can align God's people and resources to all point in the same direction through our campuses and ministries. Second, we celebrate the work of God that He is doing in and through our lay leaders, who often have some of the most innovative and creative ways to connect people to Jesus Christ.

1. The Exhortation Toward Innovation (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

The connection between being a slave to all (v. 19) and becoming like them (vv. 20-23) would have been clear to the Corinthians. In their culture, a slave was an outsider who brought no rights with him and had no claims on the society that maintained him. A slave even had to accept the religion of his new

owner's household. While Paul did not adopt the religions of those among whom he worked, he adapted himself to his environment as much as his faith would allow. One paragraph overview of this section.

2. The Example of Innovation (Acts 17:16-32)

Athens was the intellectual center of the Roman empire, but the situation there disturbed Paul. He encountered all sorts of people from many religious backgrounds and was deeply agitated at the city's widespread idolatry. More than thirty thousand statues were erected to gods. Luke wrote that Paul was "deeply distressed," which denotes fury and sadness—a deep grief over the idolatry.

3. Seeking Innovation Through Intercession (John 17:6-26)

Jesus's high priestly prayer shows His deep concern for unity among His followers. Unity is not uniformity. Unity does not mean holding the same opinions or agreeing on every matter. Unity among Christians means loving one another with Jesus's love, obeying His commands, and working together in His redemptive mission. Love for Jesus, faithfulness to Him, and needing one another to do His work will unite His people for maximum effort for Him.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?