

Building Bridges

1 Cor. 9:19-23, 10:33

“Building Bridges Via Respect Toward the Faithless”

1 Cor. 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*.

1 Cor. 10:33 Even as **I please all *men* in all *things***, not seeking mine own profit, **but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.**

“Building Bridges Via Respect Within the Family”

I. RESPECT WITHIN THE FAMILY

“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”

II. RESPECT AMONG THE FAITHFUL

A. The Expectation for a Christian

- Prove what you are supposed to have.
- Be an encouragement with spiritual guidance – “...any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love...”
- Be an encouragement with kind words.
- Be an encouragement with genuine sympathy/empathy.

B. The Expression of a Christian, v. 2 – “Fulfil ye my joy...”

Mutual respect among believers is the essence of unity.

- Unity in purpose -- “... be likeminded...”
- Unity in passion – “...having the same love...”
- Unity in practice – “...*being* of one accord, of one mind.”

C. The Estimation of a Christian, vs. 3-4

- In the foremost of a believers’ evaluation of another, should be the other, not self.
- Respect others’ needs overshadowing the needs of self.

1 Cor. 10:33 Even as **I please all men in all things**, not seeking mine own profit, **but the profit of many, that they may be saved.**

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The real “profit” in life is realized when sinners commit their soul to the eternal safekeeping of Christ.

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him** against that day.

III. RESPECT TOWARD THE FAITHLESS

A. The Paradox, 1 Cor. 9:19

1 Cor. 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

Original Word: ελευθερος

Transliteration: eleutheros

Short Definition: free, delivered from obligation

Properly, *free (liberated)*, unbound (unshackled); (figuratively) free to realize one's destiny *in Christ*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1658.htm>

- Paul was free – physically, legally, and spiritually. He was free to do what he wanted without any obligations to anyone.
- He was also free to enslave himself unto all men, regardless of their status in life.
- Paul respectfully gave himself for others for the sake of delivering them from spiritual darkness to everlasting life in Christ.

B. The Particulars, 1 Cor. 9:20-22a

1 Cor. 9:20 “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak...”

- Paul had a burden for, and sought to win the Jews to Christ.

Acts 13:5 And when they were at Salamis, **they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews**: and they had also John to *their* minister.

Acts 14:1 And it came to pass in Iconium, that **they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews**, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, **where was a synagogue of the Jews:**

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, ...

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* **went into the synagogue of the Jews. ...**

17 Therefore **disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews,** and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 18:4 And **he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath,** and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

- Paul respected the Gentiles and made himself what they needed in order to hear the Gospel.
- Paul rebuked the Jewish Apostles regarding the Gentiles.

Gal. 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

- Paul laid aside personal ego in order to reach the “weaklings” of society.

1 Cor. 9:22a “To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak...”

C. The Purpose, 1 Cor. 9:22b-23

1 Cor. 9:22b "...I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*."

- Paul showed respect for all men that he might influence some to trust Christ.
- Paul's actions verified his heart's desire for the faithless.
- Paul connected the outreach to others as being a partaker with the church at Corinth.

Conclusion

Isa. 43:10 **Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD**, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing **we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.