

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: 1 Corinthians 9:1-12

November 3, 2019

Overview:

What does it mean to live a Gospel centered life? How would you describe this to someone who doesn't know Jesus? For believers, a Gospel centered life means keeping your focus on Jesus. This is done by how we live, speak, and treat others.

What does it mean to live a selfless life? Living a selfless life means putting the needs of others ahead of your own. The Apostle Paul writes about this in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 which states: ²³ "All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."¹ Paul is stating that believers have a lot of freedom to seek their own good, but this isn't always helpful to the church as a whole.

Is it possible to live a Gospel centered life while not living a selfless life? Can you focus on Jesus while only seeking your own good and things that benefit you? Living a Gospel centered life is intertwined with a selfless life so that every believer may seek the good of those around them. Paul uses three examples in 1 Corinthians 8-10 about living a selfless life. In chapter 8 Paul writes about believers having the right to eat whatever meat they want, but not at the expense of someone else's faith. In chapter 9 Paul uses himself as an example and in chapter 10 Paul uses the history of Israel as an example. Paul's main point in all three examples is that believers should live selflessly so that some might be saved.

In today's passage the Apostle Paul talks about his rights as an apostle. He has the right to get paid for the preaching of the Gospel. He has the right to live as the other Apostles do with their wives. Paul has several rights listed out in the first 11 verses, but he forgoes them all so as to not hinder the Gospel. He is willing to live a selfless life so that no hindrance or obstacle gets in the way of his preaching.

Does First MB have the same mindset of the Apostle Paul? Are we willing to set aside our own wants and desires so that some might find and follow Jesus? In today's society there is an extreme sense of self entitlement. I know that many of us don't like the word entitlement so we prefer to say the words "I deserve" instead. For some reason it is easier to fight for what you deserve than to call it entitlement.

What do you feel like you deserve at church? Do you deserve the worship done just the way you like? Do you deserve the service times at whatever is most

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (1 Co 10:23–24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

convenient for you? Do you deserve the temperature set at your preference? The answer to all these questions can be a resounding YES. You might be a founding member of the church and deserve all these things, but are you willing to set aside what you deserve so that some might be saved. In 1 Corinthians 8-10 the Apostle Paul is trying to get believers to set aside their own rights so as not to hinder the Gospel. Live a Gospel centered life. Live a selfless life. Stay focused on the Gospel so that unbelievers may find and follow Jesus.

Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 9:1-12

1. Why is it sometimes so hard to give up what we deserve for the good of others?
2. What are some things you feel like you deserve at church? Like it or not, all of us have an answer to this question.
3. How does living a selfless life play out in the church as a whole? What does it look like?
4. What are some ways the Gospel is hindered because of believers seeking their own desires?
5. The Apostle Paul made sacrifices so as not to hinder the Gospel. What sacrifices are you willing to make? Are you willing to let go of preferences so unbelievers can find and follow Jesus?