

Finding Common Ground

1 Corinthians 9:15-23

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

—1 Corinthians 9:22b

Prejudice: *an assumed conclusion about someone's worth based on first impressions or outward appearances.*

1. **Listen**--Really Listen.

I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. —1 Corinthians 9:19b

Active listening:

Eye contact

Gestures of understanding

Paraphrase--shows you understand

Repeat--draws out more information

2. **Look** for Common Ground.

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. —1 Corinthians 9:20

Confrontational Evangelism looks for opportunity to jump in with a Gospel Presentation.

Areas of Common Ground:

- Specific **topics**—news, work,
- An **emotion**—joy, pain, sorrow, anger
- Specific **people**—heroes, villains, or common acquaintances.
- Past **Experiences**—loss, success, career, family

3. **Affirm** areas of agreement.

To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

—1 Corinthians 9:21

- **Community**—*Cheers*
- **Pop-culture** **theology**—movies, i.e. *Forrest Gump*
- **Support**—Alzheimer support group, AA

4. **Take** the next step.

I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

—1 Corinthians 9:23

- **Uniqueness** of Christianity—Purpose in life, “**Here is where we disagree.**”
- **Specific** Need—rich young ruler, woman at well.
- **Gospel** message—a good creator God loves us.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

—1 Peter 3:15

Assumption: We really do want to reach out. DON'T WE?

Memory Verse:

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

—1 Corinthians 9:22

Next Week:

“Prepared to Give an Answer”

1 Peter 3:15

Developing our own personal answer for the hope we have in Christ.