

Title: “Counter-Cultural”

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:20-23

Target: As followers of Jesus there are missional dynamics that we are all to embrace regardless of our vocation. For in every profession, platform, or place of participation, there is a way of thinking and living that is to be embraced by all, and that is to see your place in that space as the mission field. Now, before you panic under the weight of expectation, know this is not something you do, but what God does through YOU.

Teaching Points: Often times, we begin with the fear, what do I say, but this series is not so much built on what you say, but how you live. **THUS OUR ENTIRE SERIES CALLED...WINSOME!**

- **Definition of Winsome:** “Attractive or Appealing in Character”
- **Description of Winsome:** “Living a life of Irresistible Influence by giving value to all People”
- **Display of Winsome:** *Honor*Humility*Hustle*Hospitality*High-Capacity

Background: Paul was a Jewish New Testament Missionary that was converted by Jesus for Jesus to reach a Jewish audience steeped in Judaism which included dietary laws, the Mosaic Law, and Ceremonial Laws all the while effectively ministering to the Non Jewish audience who knew not of Judaism or the Scriptures. How was He so effective?

- I. **Care about Context (Vs. 20-21):** *In order to get people to go where you are going is to first know where they’re coming from.*
- II. **Understand before be Understood (Vs. 20):** *God gave us two ears and one mouth as a reminder that we are to listen more than we talk.*
- III. **Love without Limits (Vs. 21):** *Jesus didn’t just raise the bar of love; He is the bar of love.*
- IV. **Tethered by Truth (Vs. 22):** *Accountability in Behavior is anchored in Belief in the Bible.*
- V. **Unfazed by Unbelief (Vs. 22):** *Disagreements are never a cause for Divorce.*
- VI. **Resilient in Ridicule (Vs. 21):** *The criticism that stings the most comes from within.*
- VII. **Eyes on Eternity (Vs. 23):** *Blessed people Bless People.*

Takeaway: This is going to be a hard question....Ready??? Do you have a life worth imitating? We emulate what we celebrate! This is the reason we follow Jesus! Are people willing to follow you? If Not, HEAR ME SAY! YOUR STORY AINT OVER!