

## Series: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

**Sunday, May 31.** Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at [gardiner.church/devotions](http://gardiner.church/devotions)

### 1. A DESIRE THAT D ..... EVERYTHING

(1 Corinthians 9:19; see also John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 9:1-4a)

- Paul's all-consuming passion was to win as many souls as possible for Jesus — a desire that mirrors the very heart of God. He was even willing to give up his own comfort, rights, and privileges for this one great purpose. The question for us is whether we share this same heartfelt burden for those who are lost.
- Question for Consideration: When you think about the people in your life who don't yet know Jesus, does their eternal destiny stir something in your heart — and if not, what might you ask God to change in you?

**NOTES:** .....

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### 2. A DESIRE THAT CROSSES EVERY B .....

(1 Corinthians 9:20-21; see also Acts 16:1-5; 17:22-34)

- Paul was willing to meet people where they were — culturally, socially, and personally — in order to remove every unnecessary barrier to the Gospel. He understood that our cultural preferences should never get in the way of someone hearing about Jesus. We can adapt our approach without ever compromising our faith.
- Question for Consideration: Are there any cultural attitudes, preferences, or habits in your own life that might be creating unnecessary barriers between you and someone who needs to hear the Gospel?

**NOTES:** .....

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**3. A DESIRE THAT S ..... DOWN**

(1 Corinthians 9:22-23; see also Philipians 2:5-7)

- Paul was willing to humble himself and embrace weakness so that others might be saved — following the very example of Jesus, who left the glory of heaven and made himself nothing for our sake (Philipians 2:5–7). Reaching others sometimes costs us our comfort, our pride, and our preferences.
- Question for Consideration: Is there a situation or a person in your life where God may be calling you to set aside your own comfort or preferences in order to open a door for the Gospel?

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**Application For This Week:**

Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Pray for them by name each day this week, and ask God to show you one practical way you can build a genuine bridge toward them — whether that means spending time with them, listening to them, or simply showing them the love of Christ in a tangible way. Ask God to give you His heart for the lost, and trust Him to open the door.

**Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of the Gospel — that You loved the world so much that You gave Your Son so that we might be saved. Forgive us for the times we have been indifferent to those around us who are lost. Give us Your heart for the people in our lives, our neighborhoods, and our world. Like Paul, make us willing to give up our own comfort and preferences so that by all possible means, some may be saved. May we truly become all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel, and may we share in the joy of seeing lives transformed by Your grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

**Verses To Meditate On This Week:**

*The Lord ... is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. — 2 Peter 3:9*

*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. — 1 Corinthians 9:22b-23*

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