

IN ORDER TO WIN SOME

The great commission is the command for Christians to go out into the world making disciples of everyone, baptizing them, and teaching obedience to Christ - Matt 28:18-20 - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** 19 Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

To accomplish this, we make ourselves committed to EVERYONE, based on God, knowing we'll only win some for Christ - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, **I make myself a slave to EVERYONE, to win as many as possible.** 20 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. 21 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. 22 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.** 23 I do all this **for the sake of the gospel,** that I may share in its blessings.

Winning others must be for Christ ONLY and not for other "hell bound" causes - Matt 23:15 "**WOE TO YOU, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!** You travel over land and sea **to win a single convert,** and **when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.**

Work with others because of God, not because of them - Rom 12:14-18 - 14 **Bless those who persecute you;** bless and do not curse. 15 **Rejoice with those who rejoice;** **mourn with those who mourn.** 16 **Live in harmony with one another.** **Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.** **Do not be conceited.** 17 **Do not repay anyone evil for evil.** **Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.** 18 If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

We are to live for the good of others in God not the good based on self - 1 Cor 10:23-24 - 23 "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is constructive. 24 **Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.**

We are to live to show love by serving others based on God - 1 Peter 4:8-11 - 8 **Above all, love each other deeply,** because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 **Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.** 10 Each one should **use whatever gift he has received to serve others,** faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone **speaks,** he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone **serves,** he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Understand, sincere love is based on God NEVER self - Rom 12:9-10 - 9 **LOVE MUST BE SINCERE.** **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.** 10 **BE devoted to one another in brotherly love.** Honor one another above yourselves.

THERE ARE THINGS WE MUST AVOID IN ORDER TO WIN OTHERS AND NOT CAUSE STUMBLING

Our purpose must NEVER be for self and we must ALWAYS consider others - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,** but in humility **CONSIDER OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELVES.** 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but **also to the interests of others.**

Our job is not to make a verdict of others, but for us to minister and NOT cause them to stumble - Rom 14:13 Therefore **let us stop passing judgment on one another.** Instead, **make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.**

We cause others to stumble by focusing fleshly instead of Godly - Matt 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! **You are a stumbling block to me;** **YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, but the things of men.**"

We are NOT to avoid the world, we MUST be amongst it in order to minister to the world - Matt 9:10-13 - 10 While **Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him** and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "**Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?**" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.** 13 But go and learn what this means: **'I DESIRE MERCY, not sacrifice.'** **For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

We must know our real place in the world and live accordingly in order to display God - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, **I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires,** which war against your soul. 12 **Live such good lives among the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.**

We must not deal with others based on us because we put ourselves in danger of God - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For **in the same way you judge others, YOU WILL be judged,** and **with the measure you use, IT WILL be measured to you.**

We must make sure NOT to get caught up in MEANINGLESS conversation and quarrels - 2 Tim 2:22-26 - 23 **Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments,** because you know **they produce quarrels.** 24 And the **Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone,** able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him **he must gently instruct,** **IN THE HOPE THAT GOD WILL GRANT THEM REPENTANCE LEADING THEM TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH,** 26 and that **they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil,** who has taken them captive to do his will.

We must be careful with EVERYTHING we say, based on how it will affect others - Eph 4:29 **Do not let any unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but **ONLY what is helpful for building others up according to their needs,** **that it may benefit those who listen.**

We must NEVER respond based on how we are treated - Rom 12:17-21 - 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. **BE CAREFUL** to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Offending and debating could be counterproductive to our ministry - Prov 18:19 A brother offended is HARDER TO WIN than a strong city, And **CONTENTIONS** are like the bars of a castle. NKJV

We must make sure our freedoms (rights) NEVER get in the way of our ministry - 1 Cor 8:9-13 - 9 **Be careful,** however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, **if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again,** so that I will not cause him to fall.

Keep in mind who we are trying to please - Gal 1:10 -Am I now trying to win **the approval of men, or of God?** Or am I trying to please men? **If I were still trying to please men,** I would not be a servant of Christ.

***DO not try to please any man... that includes YOU!!!**

TO WIN OTHERS, WE MUST HAVE A MINISTRY WITH A GODLY PURPOSE

Our motive needs to be displayed in our ministry - 1 Thess 2:3-6 - 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, **we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.** **We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.** 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed — **God is our witness.** 6 We were **NOT LOOKING FOR PRAISE FROM MEN,** not from you or anyone else.

This all must be done with SOUND DOCTRINE - Titus 2:1- You **must teach** what is **in accord with SOUND DOCTRINE.**

We must ALWAYS display the foundations of true communications - James 1:19-20 - 19 My dear brothers, **take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,** 20 for **man's anger does not** bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Realize every opportunity is valuable and we must make the most of it - Col 4:5-6 - 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be ALWAYS FULL OF GRACE, SEASONED WITH SALT, so that you may know **HOW TO ANSWER EVERYONE.**

Know the situation and how to prepare - Matt 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be **as shrewd as snakes** and **as innocent as doves.**

It's a blessing when you are strong enough to be unshaken - 2 Cor 11:19-21 - 19 You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! 20 In fact, **you even put up with** anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. 21 **To my shame I admit that we were TOO WEAK for that!**

We must pay attention to others, based on God, in order to assist them correctly - Jude 22-23 - 22 **BE merciful to those who doubt;** 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Know your audience and act accordingly - 1 Thess 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

The perfect ministry frame of mind - Eph 4:2-3 - 2 **Be completely** humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

Perfect instruction on what our ministry should be - 2 Tim 4:2 Preach the **Word;** be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

Our everyday life is to be a ministry to others - 1 Thess 4:11-12 - 11 **Make it your ambition** to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 **SO THAT** your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and **SO THAT** you will not be dependent on anybody.

We must never minister towards emotion, but in truth - Rom 10:1-3 - Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are **zealous for God,** but **THEIR ZEAL IS NOT BASED ON KNOWLEDGE.** 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Be warned, if you are part of the problem, you will have to answer to God - Matt 18:2-6 - 2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, **whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** 5 "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. 6 But **if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.**