



Many churchgoers secretly (or not-so-secretly) have a “church crush”—a church they admire from afar, thinking that church must be better than theirs. This series explores Paul’s words to the Corinthians, showing that every church has struggles, but the real joy comes from rooted commitment, reconciliation, belief, and mission.

### ***What Are We Here For? –May 18, 2025***

#### **1. We’re Here to Serve, Not Sit** *(Read 1 Corinthians 9:19)*

How does Paul’s choice to become a servant, even while being free, challenge the way we think about our rights today? What would it look like in your life to see freedom as a tool rather than a trophy?

#### **2. We’re Here to Meet People Where They Are** *(Read 1 Corinthians 9:20–22)*

Paul adapted his approach to reach different people with the gospel. What are some ways the church today can practice this kind of flexibility without compromising the message?

#### **3. True Maturity is Willing to Bend** *(See Romans 14:1 and 1 Corinthians 8:9–13)*

Paul showed care for the “weaker brother” by limiting his freedom. Why is it sometimes harder to practice restraint than to exercise freedom, and what does that say about maturity in Christ?

#### **4. Rooted and Flexible** *(See 1 Corinthians 9:22)*

Dr. Richard Pratt used the image of pine trees that bend and survive storms, unlike rigid oaks. What traditions, preferences, or personal comforts might need to bend in your life for the sake of reaching others?

#### **5. We’re Here to Run with Purpose** *(Read 1 Corinthians 9:24–27)*

What does it mean to “run in such a way as to get the prize”? How can we cultivate this kind of spiritual discipline and intentionality in our daily lives?

#### **6. Pressing On Toward the Goal** *(See Philippians 3:7–14)*

Paul considered all his past accomplishments loss for the sake of knowing Christ and pressing on. What would it look like for you to release past successes, failures, or identities in order to pursue the gospel more fully?

#### **7. Everything Through the Lens of the Gospel** *(Read 1 Corinthians 9:23)*

Paul says, “I do all this for the sake of the gospel.” What would it mean for our church—and your life—if *everything* was filtered through the question: “Will this help someone know Jesus?”