

BECOMING WHAT PEOPLE NEED  
I CORINTHIANS 9:19-27

Introduction - The world we live in

A. Many cultures

B. Five generations

- *GI Generation – 1900-1924*
- *Silent Generation – 1925-1946*
- *Baby Boomers – 1946-1964*
- *Baby Busters (Generation X) – 1965-1983*
- *Millennial Generation (Next Generation) – 1984-present*

**We believe that each culture and sub-culture needs to hear the message of Jesus and to see the life of Jesus in words and forms that it can understand.** We do not want to perpetuate traditions or practices that create unnecessary barriers to people receiving and embracing the good news of Jesus. We desire to adapt in every way we can, while remaining faithful to God's Word, in order to communicate clearly and effectively to the diversity of generations and sub-cultures around us.

I. The goal: To win as many people as possible

- *Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 10:13,14; II Thessalonians 3:1*

II. The choice: To adapt

III. The cost

A. Voluntary loss of freedom

B. Purposeful, disciplined living

DAILY BIBLE READINGS  
DECEMBER 15-21

Follow-throughs

**Monday**

**Luke 5:1-39**

What unexpected and/or unconventional actions did Jesus take in his work of evangelism and discipleship? What criticisms came toward him in the process? How does Jesus' reference to "new wineskins" in verse 38 help to explain his approach? To what extent do you see people as Jesus saw them, as people needing healing and forgiveness and repentance? Are you willing for Jesus to make you a "fisher of men?"

**Tuesday**

**Acts 10:1-48**

Why would it have been so hard for Peter to consider going to the house of a Gentile? How did God have to break through his prejudices, in order to get him to move out of his comfort zone? What were the results of Peter's obedience? Are there any "boxes" of conventionality or habit or tradition that you have been living in that may be limiting you from being an agent of grace and truth in the life of someone else?

**Wednesday**

**Acts 11:1-18**

What objections did Peter encounter after his meeting with Cornelius? What changed the minds of the critics? Pray today for those whose critical attitudes may be squelching the work of the Holy Spirit in reaching lost people. Ask the Lord to show you any areas where you may be quenching God's Spirit yourself.

**Thursday**

**Acts 11:19-30**

What new steps were taken by the believers in Antioch? What were the results? Notice the repeated references to "great numbers" (vv.21,24,26). Pray today that we would see great numbers of people coming to know Jesus, and growing in Jesus, as well as going and showing his love, here in our own communities. Pray that the Lord would help us to identify and overcome any barriers in our ministries that are hindering more people from coming to Jesus.

**Friday**

**Acts 15:1-35**

What was the issue? How was it resolved? What did the early church learn about becoming "all things to all men?"

Warm-ups

**Saturday**

**Hebrews 1:1,2**

How is Jesus described in these verses? In what ways is the way God has spoken to us in Jesus different from the ways he spoke through the prophets, or through the created universe? Ask the Lord to speak to you in new ways during this Christmas season.

**Sunday**

**Hebrews 1:3-14**

In what ways is Jesus in a class by himself? Worship and praise him for his splendor. Ask the Lord to open the minds and hearts of people today, and during the Christmas Eve services this week, to see Jesus more clearly than ever before.