



Week 6 | Church in the City | September 24

Opening Up:

If you were running a marathon for a cause, what cause would you support?
(Does that cause mean enough to you to actually run a marathon?)

If you could remove one distraction from your life that effects your focus, what would it be?

If you could focus on one thing with no distractions for 48 hours, what would it be?

Reference: 1 Corinthians 8-9

Discuss:

1. There is a lot sideways energy being spent by the church in chapter 8 over food. This was a very important issue for both those who ate and those who did not eat food sacrificed to idols. To focus the church Paul says, “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” How is this true?
2. How does love prevent unresolved conflict from derailing missional momentum?
3. Have you ever seen how *sideways* energy derails an organizations momentum or success? How so?
4. What are some things that can derail the churches focus on her mission in the world?
5. In 9:22 Paul says, “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might reach some.” Who are you called to reach? Who is your one? Why are you called?
6. Paul wants to remove any obstacle in the way of the gospel (9:12). What are the obstacles keeping you from reaching the one (or people) you are called to reach?
7. In 2 Corinthians 5:20 we read that we are ambassadors for Jesus bringing a ministry of reconciliation to others. Who in the city or your life needs the hope and peace of reconciliation?
8. Do you think that people in Albuquerque are predisposed to doubt change is possible? Do you think there is a spirit of hopelessness in ABQ? How can you represent Jesus by being an ambassador of hope?
9. In 9:27 Paul speaks to his commitment to being ready and prepared physically and spiritual for the mission he is called to. How can you better prepared physically and spiritually for the ministry you are called to?
10. Pray