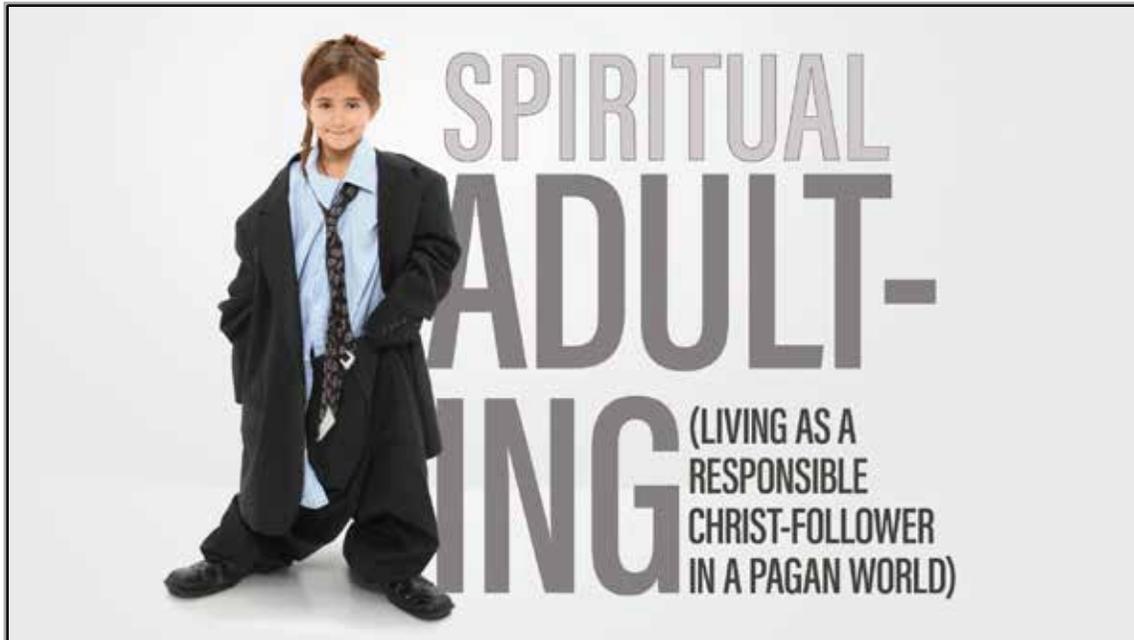


03-08-2026 Message



1 Group

Start Theme Slide

Keeping the main thing the main thing!

2



"The main thing is to
keep the main thing
the main thing."

- Stephen Covey

3

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of
your rights does not become a stumbling
block to the weak.

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

4

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

¹Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

Romans 14:1 (NIV)

5

Romans 14:1 (NIV)

A disputable matter is a gray area of Christian liberty that is not specifically spelled out in scripture.

6

God calls those of us who mature in the faith to make adjustments (sacrifices) on behalf of those we are trying to reach.

7

¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8:13 (NIV)

8

1 Corinthians 8:13 (NIV)

DISPUTABLE MATTERS IN THE CHURCH TODAY:

- Alcohol consumption
- Entertainment choices
- Politicians and political affiliations
- Lesser doctrinal positions
- Parenting styles
- Worship styles
- Clothing
- Tattoos, piercings

9

1 Corinthians 9: Giving up our rights for
the sake of advancing the gospel.

10

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

²⁰To 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.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

11

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV) 1 of 3

²¹To 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.

²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

12

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV) 2 of 3

²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

13

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV) Last of 3

Paul was driven by the desire to see others come to know Jesus. We tend to naturally talk about who we love and what we love.

14



15



16

Paul says: Keep the main thing the
main thing.

What is the main thing?

17

¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV)

18

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV) 1 of 3

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV)

19

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV) 2 of 3

⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.
⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,
⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV)

20

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV) Last of 3

Frisco First is a community of believers that invite people into relationship with Jesus and each other.

21

²⁰To 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. ²¹To 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

1 Corinthians 9:20-22 (NIV)

22

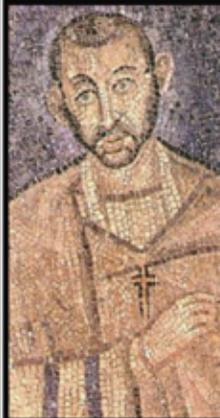
1 Corinthians 9:20-22 (NIV)

law), so as to win those not having the law.
²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:20-22 (NIV)

23

1 Corinthians 9:20-22 (NIV)



When I am at Rome I fast as the Romans do; when I am at Milan I do not fast. So likewise you, whatever church you come to, observe the custom of the place, if you would neither give offence to others, nor take offence from them.

(Saint Ambrose)

izquotes.com

24



25



26

Paul is NOT becoming a chameleon.

27

Paul confronted Peter:

28

¹¹But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong.

¹²When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came,

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT)

Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision.

¹³As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT)

¹⁴When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, “Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?”

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT)

31

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT) 3 of 5

¹⁵“You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles.

¹⁶Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ,

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT)

32

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT) 4 of 5

Not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT)

33

Galatians 2:11-16 (NLT) Last of 5

Relate to people where they are. Do not erect unnecessary obstacles to the gospel.

34



35

Three rights Paul gave up for the
gospel:

36

THREE RIGHTS PAUL GAVE UP FOR
THE GOSPEL:

1. The right to earn a living from the
gospel

37

⁶Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the
right to not work for a living?

1 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

38

1 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

¹¹If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

¹²If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:11-12 (NIV)

39

1 Corinthians 9:11-12 (NIV)

¹⁵But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast.

1 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

40

1 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

¹After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

²There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

Acts 18:1-3 (NIV)

41

Acts 18:1-3 (NIV) 1 of 2

³And because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

Acts 18:1-3 (NIV)

42

Acts 18:1-3 (NIV) Last of 2

THREE RIGHTS PAUL GAVE UP FOR
THE GOSPEL:

2. The right to marry

43

³This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me.

⁴Don't we have the right to food and drink?

⁵Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?

1 Corinthians 9:3-5 (NIV)

44

1 Corinthians 9:3-5 (NIV)

¹¹If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

¹²If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary,

1 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NIV)

45

1 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NIV) 1 of 3

We put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

¹³Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

¹⁴In the same way,

1 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NIV)

46

1 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NIV) 2 of 3

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

¹⁵But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. 1 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NIV)

THREE RIGHTS PAUL GAVE UP FOR THE GOSPEL:

3. Personal cultural preferences

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

²⁰To 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.

1 Corinthians 9:19-21 (NIV)

²¹To 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.

1 Corinthians 9:19-21 (NIV)

Paul identified with Gentiles and gave up those things that separated him from Gentiles for the sake of reaching Gentiles.

51

Why did Paul give up his rights and preferences?

52

²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)

53

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

²⁵Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

54

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV) 1 of 2

²⁶Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

²⁷No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

55

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV) Last of 2



Marble stadium in Athens, site of the ancient Panathenaic games

56



57



58

Training involves arranging our lives and schedule in a way that will build the habits that lead to success.

59

Keeping the main thing the main thing!

60

THREE QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF US TO
ASK:

- What is the single most important goal in my life?

61

⁹So we make it our goal to please him,

2 Corinthians 5:9a (NIV)

62

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NIV)

²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)

63

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)

THREE QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF US TO
ASK:

- What is the single most important goal in my life?
- Do my daily and weekly activities support my main objective?

64

²⁵Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)

65

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)

THREE QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF US TO ASK:

- What is the single most important goal in my life?
- Do my daily and weekly activities support my main objective?
- What should I avoid, in order to not be disqualified?

66

²⁷No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NIV)

67

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NIV)



68

A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a black suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie, stands on a white surface. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To her right, the words "SPIRITUAL ADULT-ING" are written in large, bold, grey letters. Below "ADULT-ING", the text "(LIVING AS A RESPONSIBLE CHRIST-FOLLOWER IN A PAGAN WORLD)" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

**SPIRITUAL
ADULT-
ING** (LIVING AS A
RESPONSIBLE
CHRIST-FOLLOWER
IN A PAGAN WORLD)