

## We May be Called to Different Audiences and Ministries, but We are All Called to be Flexible

Acts 18:1-9

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquilla, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul *devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.* But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! *I am clear of my responsibility.* From now on I will go to the Gentiles”.

Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “*Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.*” So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching the word of God.

Paul had preached his best message (“The Unknown God” Acts 17:16-34), yet gained few believers. Ever heard of the Church of Athens? Paul must have entered Corinth somewhat disheartened. “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom... My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.” I Corinthians 2:1-5. If Paul felt inadequate at times, we should not be ashamed when we do, too.

**Note:** Paul held a secular job here. If you work publicly, don’t think you can’t do ministry work, too. God will make a way!

This was the custom. Paul followed the local customs because “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” I Corinthians 9:19. Do you need to make some adjustments in order to minister to a specific person or group?

To what ministry gifting are you currently and exclusively devoted? Teaching, Mission Work, Evangelism, etc?

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What are your clear responsibilities in the ministry the Lord has entrusted to you?

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If you do not feel as effective as you hope to be in ministry, what are some of your “next door” possibilities?

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When you are clear about your ministry responsibilities, you can overcome persecution and be flexible enough to change your target audience, spiritual gift use for more effectiveness.

“*Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.*” Ecclesiastes 11:6.

Never feel hemmed in by lack of resources or platform; use your God-given creativity to make the necessary adjustments in ministry.

**The bottom line is:**

**Ministry requires flexibility!**

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”

Colossians 4:2-5