

## Daily Devotional, September 17, 2021 Till I Reach the Highest Ground

***“When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.”***  
**1Corinthians 9:20-25 (NLT)**

For any relationship to work, we must accept each other’s differences, no matter what. Within our family we must respect each other’s unique perspectives. We don’t need to agree on every issue, but we must always honor where the other person is coming from. Paul did that when he said: “I try to find common ground with everyone.” Notice that his objective was to always *save someone*.

Some of us who claim to follow Christ have a hard time with views and values that differ from our own. We think “compromise” is a dirty word. Some of us have turned from the most immoral lives to faith in Christ, yet after our conversion we won’t associate with anyone who doesn’t agree with us and adopt our newfound values. Sometimes our families fall apart because we try to force our opinions on the people we love and we set boundaries to keep nonconformists out. Doesn’t this seem to be a terrible misuse of the name Christianity!

Fortunately for all of us, Jesus didn’t condemn the people who crucified Him; Instead He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). He didn’t view them as morally bad, but spiritually blind. He told His disciples, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me.” (John 6:44). It’s your job to love people, and it’s God’s job to change them! So, stop trying to do what only God can do!

If you invest patiently in your relationships, respect other people’s perspectives, and sow good seed, you’ll reap a pleasant harvest in the long term. Your love, not the force of your argument, can give hope to the most severely damaged among us that there really is healing for the broken places of the human soul.

***Prayer: Give us a heart of love for those with whom we disagree, O Lord. May we interact with these people with civility, gentleness, and respect. We admit that we would rather only love those who love us, but you have called us to a higher love; one that reaches across the ideological divide and finds common ground. May it be so in Jesus’ name. Amen.***