

Table Group

Week of February 1, 2021

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (The Message)

Still, I want it made clear that I've never gotten anything out of this for myself, and that I'm not writing now to get something. I'd rather die than give anyone ammunition to discredit me or question my motives. If I proclaim the Message, it's not to get something out of it for myself. I'm compelled to do it, and doomed if I don't! If this was my own idea of just another way to make a living, I'd expect some pay. But since it's not my idea but something solemnly entrusted to me, why would I expect to get paid? So am I getting anything out of it? Yes, as a matter of fact: the pleasure of proclaiming the Message at no cost to you. You don't even have to pay my expenses!

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whatever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

The purpose of Table Groups is to pursue holiness together. As Wesley established with his Band Societies: The design of our meeting is, to obey that command of God, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." [...] "To speak each of us in order, freely and plainly, the true state of our souls, with the faults we have committed in thought, word, or deed, the temptations we have felt, since our last meeting."

The following questions allow for mutual accountability, where spiritual friends are found confessing sin without fear of condemnation.

- How is it with your soul?
 - What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
 - What temptations have you met with?
 - How were you delivered?
 - What have you thought, said, or done, of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?
 - Have you nothing you desire to keep secret?
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- ★ Where/How have you experienced God this week?
 - ★ Where/How have you seen love flow?