

## **Different Fish, Different Bait**

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more, and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” - 1 Cor. 9:19-23.

**There’s isn’t a one-size-fits-all-approach to evangelism. We must learn to adapt to the situation. When you are sharing your faith, people will try to get you off point. They will say things like, “Well, I have a question for you. What about all these denominations? What denomination are you?” Or, “What about politics? Who did you vote for? What is your view on this issue?”**

**All of these are secondary issues – rabbit trails. When I am speaking to someone about Christ, I will try to address those things, but then I will get back to the main issue, their salvation. That is what Jesus did with the woman in Samaria when she tried to change the subject. He focused on what really mattered. And that is what we need to do as well.**

**When you go fishing, you use different kinds of bait for different kinds of fish. And when it comes to evangelism, you might emphasize one thing more than another with certain people. In initially approaching a person and establishing contact with him or her, you may vary in your approach. But ultimately you will get to the main message. Peter, for example, was very different in his presentation of the gospel to the Jews (see Acts 2) than Paul was with non-Jews (see Acts 17). There were two audiences and two entirely different approaches, but Peter and Paul delivered the same essential message.**

**This is called becoming all things to all men. Paul said, “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.”**

**The point is not to embarrass people, but to engage them. That is why we must adapt.**

**Donald**