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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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I Give Up!
1 Corinthians 9:1-23
Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV) — **19** For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.** **20** To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. **21** To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** **23** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Central Thought: Freed from past failure and confident of future blessing, we are free in Christ to give up our rights and pursue the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — **20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

❖ Personal freedoms and rights are important, but should be pursued in the context of...

- Discipleship
- Community
- Witness

❖ My freedom in Christ releases me to find appropriate common ground with those outside the faith as a context for witness.

Mark 2:16–17 (ESV) — **16** And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **17** And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

❖ Real freedom and effectiveness are a result of discipline not indulgence.

Luke 9:23–25 (ESV) — **23** And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. **25** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”

Application

❖ Where in your life is God asking you to “Give up” something for the greater cause of his glory and the good of your neighbors?