

DIDN'T SEE IT  
COMING



## PART 4: THE PATH TO IRRELEVANCE

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

#### Intro:

*Overcoming the greatest challenges that no one expects and everyone experiences.*

If left unchecked, most of us stay living in the decade where a lot of our tastes, knowledge and experiences were shaped.

If we become disconnected from the present, we become incapable of influencing the present - we become *irrelevant*.

Blockbuster Video: Fails to adjust to the Netflix model of streaming services. Closed in 2014.

Kodak: Failed to adjust to age of sharing digital photos rather than printing. Went bankrupt in 2012.

*Irrelevant people (and churches) eventually lose the ability to communicate meaningfully with the people they care about.*

“Irrelevance happens when the language, methods or styles you use no longer connect to the culture and people around you” ~Carey Nieuwhof

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 - Paul adjusted his METHODS in order to communicate the message in a RELEVANT way. His primary goal was to reach as many people as possible.

#### How do we stay relevant?

1. Love the mission more than the method

If the method becomes more important than the mission, you become irrelevant and lose your ability to speak to the people you're trying to reach.

If you're not meeting the goals you have for your mission, you have to be willing you change your method.

2. Get radical

The influence of the church in North America is declining rapidly. This is not a time for incremental change. This is a time for radical change.

When the speed of change around you is faster than the speed of change within you, you become irrelevant.

3. Become a student of culture

Receive, reject or redeem?

4. Surround yourself with younger people

The traditional model of an older person mentoring a younger person is incomplete. Every generation has something unique to teach.

#### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What is something you used to love or use often in the past, but no longer exists (think blockbuster video and Kodak)? What happened to it? How did it become irrelevant?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What stands out to you about Paul's words? How do you balance remaining faithful to Jesus while adapting to cultural changes? What are the danger points?
2. What is the difference between the *method* and the *mission* of the church? Do you think we sometimes get stuck in our methods? How so? What changes do you think need to happen in Canadian churches to be more successful in our mission again?
3. Being relevant doesn't mean we change our beliefs or begin to blend in to culture. As we assess changes in culture, we can use the helpful mnemonic from Sunday's sermon: Receive, Reject or Redeem? Think of some modern cultural practices that would fall in each of these categories.

### Application:

1. What do you need to do this week to stay (or become more) relevant (see the four points in the notes)? How will you do it?

### Prayer:

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