

# Way of Life Literature Inc.

"Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.." Prov. 6:23



## ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

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In 1 Corinthians 9:22 Paul said, "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

If this is isolated from the rest of Scripture one could assume that Paul was willing to do anything to reach the lost, including adopting their lifestyle, which is a popular principle among the "Christian rock" crowd today.

However, when one examines the context of this verse and compares Scripture with Scripture, we find that Paul did not mean anything like this.

In 1 Corinthians 9:21, for example, Paul says, "*To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.*"

Thus, he explains that he is always under the law to Christ and he is therefore never at liberty to do things that would be contrary to Scripture.

For example, Paul would not adopt long hair in order to reach the heathen, because Christ's law says long hair is a shame (1 Cor. 11:14). He would never conform to the world, because God's Word forbids this (Rom. 12:2).

And in 1 Corinthians 9:27 Paul says, "*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*"

Thus, Paul was always strict in his Christian living and did not allow anything that would result in the possibility of becoming spiritually shipwrecked. He always kept his body in subjection.

In Galatians 5:13 he says, "*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*"

Thus, Paul's liberty was not the liberty to serve the flesh in any sense, and this principle alone would mean that Paul would avoid the vast majority of things that fly under the banner of the pop culture today.

One of the first fleshly things that God dealt with me about after I was saved in the summer of 1973 was rock & roll. In my estimation, it is one of the most powerful fleshly things in society today. Steven Tyler of Aerosmith testified that rock music "is the strongest drug in the world" (*Rock Beat*, Spring 1987, p. 23), and LSD guru Timothy Leary added his amen to that, admitting, "I've been STONED ON THE MUSIC many times." **My own experience with rock & roll agrees with these testimonies, and I am confident that those who believe that rock can be sanctified for the service of a holy God are deceived.**

**Paul also taught that believers are to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). This is the strictest form of separation, and Paul would not have done anything contrary to this in his own life and ministry.**

**In 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul is definitely not providing a defense for the Christian rock & roll philosophy and there is no possibility that he would have adopted such a lifestyle.**

**Jeremiah warned, "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2), and Paul would certainly not have tattooed himself and grown his hair long and adopted pagan music and dress and posture in order to reach the pagans.**

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