

# CREATING A LEGACY

## Creating a Legacy of Personal Mission

### 1 Corinthians 9:19–23



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Leaders without a purpose are like ships without captains. Their decisions are often based on surveys and polls instead of substance and principles. They waffle and flip-flop on issues. Their followers are frustrated, disillusioned, and disloyal. On the other hand, successful leaders have a sense of personal mission. Their decisions are based on general principles and a big-picture perspective rather than popular opinion or emotional whims. They can communicate clear objectives to their followers and measure success by more than just gut feelings.

Each person needs a personal mission. Many of us are just going through the motions, not sure where we're going or how to get there. Without a personal mission, we're like a ship adrift on the waves of change or a butterfly fluttering from flower to flower, never satisfied and always searching for "just the right thing."

By the end of this message, we want you to discover why it's important to have a personal mission, decide what types of things need to be part of your personal mission, and then take some time to prayerfully write a first draft of your own mission statement. As we tackle this issue, we'll begin by looking at a Christian's corporate mission—what God wants all believers to do. Then we'll look at a biblical example of a personal mission—what God called one individual to accomplish as part of that bigger purpose.

**What kind of legacy for tomorrow are you creating today?**

**When the next generation looks back on your life, how will they remember you?**

**Will your children and friends remember you for having mentored them by etching your affirmations in stone and writing your criticisms in dust?**

**Such mentoring represents a fabulous legacy to leave behind.**



## Quotable

*Teaching,  
fellowship, baptism,  
breaking of bread,  
and prayer. A  
church needs them  
all. WE need  
them all.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. Our Corporate Mission

The purpose of the church—indeed, the purpose of every believer—is not a mystery. The Bible clearly tells us what God expects from all of us, what the mission of the church is supposed to be. Let's look first at the end of Jesus's earthly ministry to see *what* the church was supposed to do, then look at the beginning of the church's ministry to see *how* they did it.

In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus commissioned His followers to go and *make disciples*. The means of accomplishing this disciple-making mandate was by *baptizing* (the result of evangelism) and *teaching* (instructing believers toward growth in their faith). After these final words, Jesus sent His disciples to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would empower them to fulfill this corporate mission (Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8).

After the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–40), the infant church rolled up its sleeves and got to work carrying out Jesus's mandate to make disciples. How did they do it? The first church did four things to achieve the purpose for which the Spirit empowered them (2:42). First, *they were teaching*. Second, *they had fellowship*. Third, *they worshiped*. Fourth, *they had prayer*.

### 2. Commitment to a Personal Mission

Under the umbrella of the church's corporate mission, Paul had a personal mission that conformed to his unique spiritual gifts, drew on his past life experiences, opportunities, and challenges, and also utilized his talents and skills. Let's take a closer look at his personal mission in 1 Corinthians 9.

Paul lived his life for preaching the gospel to as many different people as he could reach. This was his personal mission. Everything he did in life was focused on that goal, and he readily changed his cultural and religious practices to bring him closer to that end. The *methods* and *means* of achieving this goal changed with his environment, but the *principles* and *purpose* that set his course were unalterable.

What's involved in achieving our personal mission? What does the investment cost to run in such a way that we win? Paul had a mission to lead to Christ as many people as he could during his lifetime. He also had



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a strategy for accomplishing this mission that included at least five personal commitments that are woven through the fabric of 1 Corinthians 9. First, *our personal mission calls for sacrifice* (1 Corinthians 9:19). Second, *our personal mission requires vision* (9:19, 22). Third, *our personal mission means flexibility* (9:20–22). Fourth, *our personal mission takes courage* (9:24–27). Finally, *our personal mission includes involvement* (9:16–17).



## LET'S LIVE IT

Creating your legacy begins with looking back on where you came from and how you became who you are, and it continues by looking upward to God, inward to ourselves, outward to others, and forward to the future to determine where you should be going and who you are becoming. This means writing a personal mission.

After praying for wisdom, write a personal mission statement that considers the following factors:

- What God wants all believers to do (Romans 11:36)
- How God has uniquely prepared you through events and experiences
- How God has uniquely gifted you with spiritual gifts, talents, or skills
- The needs God has placed in your path



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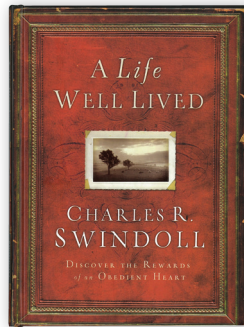
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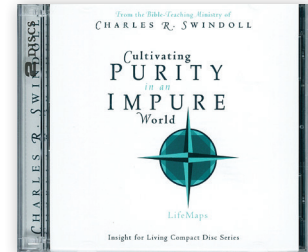
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