SHARING RESOURCES...WEEK 4

Hello everyone,
           One of the great things about Bible Reading is that you sometimes come across a passage that has previously passed you by, but which suddenly grabs your attention and becomes a real nugget. One such passage for me, recently, is 1 Corinthians 7: 17-24, where Paul talks about our calling in life and our following that calling while ever it is ours to follow. (It would be worth reading)

                It’s important to see that this passage is firmly based in the cultural context of the time. In particular this is the context of circumcision and slavery, which were accepted social norms in that day and age. I guess we have our own cultural context in which to work out, before God, whatever calling it is that we are called to follow.

                  The key thing for me, though, is that in vs 19 and 21, Paul clearly says that the bottom line isn’t whether a person is circumcised or uncircumcised, or whether a person is slave or free; what matters most is keeping God’s commands (v 19b).

                  The commands of Jesus are to love the Lord your God with all you’ve got, to love your neighbour as you love yourself, and then in John’s gospel, Jesus commands us to love one another as I have loved you.

                   It seems to me that, for each of us, our greatest resource is who we are. We are called to share ourselves, sometimes sacrificially, and what matters is that we do so within the love of God and out of love for our neighbour and for one another, whatever the cultural context in which we find ourselves. That surely is the bottom line.

                God bless,
                        Graham

*Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*