

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 9

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?

PAUL USES HIS OWN PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF LIBERTY TO MAKE HIS POINT

Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you

- Paul uses himself as an example...

not my work in the Lord? ² If to others I am

- Considering Paul's point in v. 3-7, what is Paul trying to establish when he says, "Am I not free? ..."

not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you

- ...Am I not an apostle?...

are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

- ...Have I not seen our Lord Jesus?...

- ...Are you not my work in the Lord?"

- ...If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you...

³ My defense to those who examine me is

- What did Paul mean by saying that the Corinthian church was "the seal of my apostleship in the Lord"?

this: ⁴ Do we not have a right to eat and

drink? ⁵ Do we not have a right to take

- What seems to be implied in the background, when Paul says, "My defense to those who examine me is this..."? (consider v. 2)

along a believing wife, even as the rest of

the apostles and the brothers of the Lord

and Cephas? ⁶ Or do only Barnabas and I

- Do we not have the right to _____ and _____?

not have a right to refrain from working? ⁷

- Do we not have a right to take along a believing _____, even as the rest of the _____ and the _____ of the Lord and _____?

Who at any time serves as a soldier at his

own expense? Who plants a vineyard and

- Was Peter married?

does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a

flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

⁸ I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING.” God is not concerned about oxen, is He? ¹⁰ Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. ¹¹ If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? ¹⁴ So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

¹⁵ But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one. ¹⁶ For if I

- Why do you suppose Paul chose to be unmarried?
- Who else remained unmarried? (Why?)
- What is Paul’s point with the illustrations of soldiers, vineyard workers, and shepherds?
- What does Paul imply when he says that he’s not saying these things according to human judgment?
- How is Paul applying the law of Moses (Deut. 25:4) about the ox?
- What is the meaning of the plowman plowing in hope and the thresher threshing in hope?
- And so Paul’s point is: If we sowed _____ things in you, is it too much if we reap _____ things from you?
- Nevertheless, we did not use this _____, but we _____ all things so that we will cause no _____ to the _____ of Christ.
- How was the Mosaic priesthood supported?
- And what was Paul’s point about those who proclaim the Gospel?
- Who does Paul say directed (commanded) this?
- What kind of inconveniences (vv. 1-18) did Paul voluntarily take on, when he waived his right to be supported?
 - v. 4 _____
 - v. 5 _____
 - v. 6 _____

preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

¹⁷ For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. ²³ I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives

• v. 11 _____

• v. 14 _____

• But I have used _____ of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be _____ so in my case; for it would be better for me to _____ than have any man make my _____ an _____ one.

• What does Paul mean when he says that he is preaching “under compulsion”? Or “woe is me, if I do not preach the Gospel”?

• What is Paul’s boast that he doesn’t want to be made empty?

• What is the “this” of v. 17 that he does voluntarily?

• What is the “reward”?

• If against his will, what is his stewardship?

• What do slaves get paid? _____ So what is Paul talking about when he says that he has become a slave to all?

• Starting in v. 20, what other rights has Paul given up?

• Among Jews?

• Among Gentiles?

• Among the weak, he lived within their _____ and _____ (Inconveniences? Why?)

• I do _____ things for the sake of the _____, so that I may become a _____ of it.

the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

“PARABLES” ABOUT SELF-DISCIPLE AND RESTRAINT APPLIED TO CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

- Those who race or box must...
 - Exercise _____ (v. 25)
 - _____ according to the _____ (vv. 24,27)
 - Always compete with the _____ in mind (vv. 24,26)
- How could Paul himself be “disqualified”? the question is that the Corinthian church is now asking Paul.