

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

“Refusing His Rights for the Sake of the Gospel”

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:1-14 ESV)

Does your life reflect a willingness to sacrifice so that others will grow in Christ?

- I. Paul’s Calling (1-3)
- II. Paul’s Rights
 - A. To Basic Needs (v.4)
 - B. To the Support of a Wife (v. 5)
 - C. To live only from his ministry (v.6)
- III. Paul’s Wisdom
 - A. From the secular (v.7-10)
 - B. From the sacred (13-14)
- IV. Paul’s Purpose (v.12)

Three Questions to Take Home:

1. Does Christ, His Gospel and His Kingdom, shape my priorities and convictions, or does something else?
2. Am I willing to sacrifice my rights for Christ’s sake? For others?
 - A. Time
 - B. Money
 - C. Comforts
3. What can I do with my resources, time, and gifts for the advancement of the Gospel and Christ’s Kingdom- within my church, for my community, and with my family?