

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
1 Corinthians Chapter 8
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I. Paul's Rights and Liberty Example

1 Corinthians 9:1-2 (KJV) *Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.*

A. Paul positions his role in ministry as apostle.

1 Corinthians 9:3 (KJV) *Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,*

B. Leaders can always expect scrutiny and challenges to authority.

1 Corinthians 9:4-6 (KJV) *Have we not power to eat and to drink? Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?*

C. Spiritual leaders have the same right and expectation to have and care for family (wives, children, personal matters) as every other believer.

1 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV) *Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?*

D. It is expected of everyone in every and any profession to be compensated or cared for by the work they perform.

1 Corinthians 9:8-10 (KJV) *Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? (Deuteronomy 25:4) Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

E. Adequate care for those who work is scripture not a scam.

1 Corinthians 9:11-12 (KJV) *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.*

F. Nothing should distract us or others from spreading the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (KJV) *Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

G. God takes care of those **dedicated** to His service.

II. Liberty should be set aside for the sake of the GOSPEL.

1 Corinthians 9:15 (KJV) *But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.*

A. Paul is using this as an **example**, not a plea or a **flex**.

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 (KJV) *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.*

B. The gospel is not to be bought or sold, but shared **freely**.

1 Corinthians 9:18 (KJV) *What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*

C. The **joy** of reaching people for Jesus is our **reward**. (Jehovah Jireh provides and sustains us.)

We must make sure that nothing we do in our own ministry gives the impression that we are a religious racket.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (KJV) *For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 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. 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. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.*

D. Leaders are **servants** seen serving where service is needed to **glorify** God through the Gospel.

All we do is for an opportunity to lead people to Jesus by demonstrating his love with as few distractions as possible.

Next Week Read Chapter 10