

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Liberated Service"
1 Corinthians 9:1-27
Part-15

This section, **1 Corinthians 8-11:1** is dealing with **"Liberty"**

Paul uses himself as an example in liberty. Paul's whole existence is the desire of the Gospel. Paul is willing to deny himself so that others can be won to Christ.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Christ has Liberated Believers But Freedom Is Experienced Through The Knowledge And Love Of Jesus Christ."

1. Verses 1-14 Serving In Knowledge

2. Verses 15-27 Serving In Love

1. Verses 1-14 Serving In Knowledge

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not free?

Context – Paul is speaking about **"Liberty"** **1 Corinthians 8-11:1**
Paul just spoke about in **1 Corinthians 8 Liberty in non-essentials.**
Now Paul speaks about **"Liberty in our service to the Lord"**

Paul asks 4 questions that have the answer of YES to each one.

#1. Evidence of Freedom: Am I not free? (from bondage of sin and man) We left off with liberty in non-essentials **1 Corinthians 8:13**

Paul uses himself as an example because he left off with himself!

#2. Evidence of Calling: Am I not an apostle? *"one sent out"* This was one of the most trusted positions that a person could hold in the church.

#3. Evidence of Faith: Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? (Acts 9)

#4. Evidence of Fruit: Are you not my work in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 9:2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; There were some in Corinth that were challenging Paul's apostleship. In **2 Corinthians** - Paul's defense for apostleship.

1 Corinthians 9:3 The word **examine** – *"to make a search and to scrutinize to put on a search light"* Paul came up with a series of questions that again are "YES answers". He pulls from the OT to support what God is doing through him.

Verses 4-7 The Workers Liberty: 1 Corinthians 9:4-5

and the brothers of the Lord, This would be **James**, the brother of Jesus, that wrote the epistle of James. **Jude**, who wrote the epistle to Jude.

and Cephas? The Apostle Peter had a wife. **Matthew 8:14**

1 Corinthians 9:6 This makes it clear that the other apostles and ministers were compensated in ministry. They had given themselves over to prayer and the Word.

Paul was renouncing his rights. To support and marriage.

1 Corinthians 9:12

1 Corinthians 9:7

- 1. Soldier - Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense?**
- 2. Vinedresser - Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat the fruit of it?**
- 3. Shepherd - Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?**

Paul's 4 Point Defense For Compensation For Ministry Is From The Scriptures:

1. Verses 8-11 Workers' Support Defended by Law:

1 Corinthians 9:8 Is my instruction human wisdom or is it divine, Scripture?

1 Corinthians 9:9 (Deuteronomy 25:4)

God is not concerned about oxen, is He? (Psalm 104:14)
1 Timothy 5:17-18

1 Corinthians 9:10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake?
Yes, for our sake it was written, God is concerned about people, His servants that serve Him and His people!

1 Corinthians 9:11 Paul's point is: **What is the difference between doing work in the physical and doing work in the spiritual? They are both hard labor!**

2. Verse 12 Workers' Support Defended by Example:

1 Corinthians 9:12 **If others share the right over you, do we not more?** Paul was the founder of the church, but there were others who followed Paul and received.

Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things, so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Important point! Paul forfeited his right to compensation:

3. Verse 13 Workers' Support Defended by Priesthood:

1 Corinthians 9:13

4. Verse 14 Workers' Support Defended by Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 9:14 When Jesus appointed the 70 disciples to go out and preach the gospel. **Luke 10:7; Galatians 6:6**

2. Verses 15-27 Serving In Love

1 Corinthians 9:15 (Benefit versus love)

for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one. Paul's motive - LOVE was ministry not money.

1 Corinthians 9:16 **if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion;** Note that sharing Jesus and the gospel is expected. Paul was called by God to preach.

for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. Paul's Ministry was not a **Profession** but a **Passion**. **Jerimiah 20:9**

1 Corinthians 9:17 **For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward;** This was the joy that Paul received.

NLT 1 Peter 5:2

1 Corinthians 9:18 **There is a joy that comes from not getting your own way.**

1 Corinthians 9:19 **free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, - This speaks of adaptability.**
Mobile in his Manners, not Mobile in his Morals. (LOVE)

so that I may win the more - Sacrificing to win the weak.

1 Corinthians 9:20-22

In seeking to win people to Jesus Christ, the End is to make them like us! While the Means to that end is to make ourselves like them.

I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

Paul did not alter his morals or message to reach them.

1 Corinthians 9:23 Paul's adaptability was all centered around the message of the gospel and the winning of the lost.

1 Corinthians 9:24 those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Paul uses the Olympic Games held every 2 years in Corinth, running the tract.

Run in such a way that you may win.

We can all run in the race of the gospel and all will receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 9:25 exercises self-control in all things.

The contestants committed themselves to 10 months of purity.

They then do it to receive a perishable wreath,

This was a garland of wild olive, ivy, pine, or parsley. The judge would stand in view of the runners with this wreath.

but we an imperishable. we are speaking of rewards for service.

1 Corinthians 9:26 Who is Paul running against and fighting against? It is his old nature it is the flesh that would try and hold him down from winning the race.

1 Corinthians 9:27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, I am making my old self submit.

I myself will not be disqualified. *"unfit for use"*

Application:

- 1.** What Drives Me In Ministry? Is It Me Being Able To Give Or Me Being Able To Receive?
- 2.** Both Scriptures And Life Teach That Persons Should Be Compensated For Their Labors. Love Can Bring Liberation To Our Service.
- 3.** In Seeking To Win People To Jesus Christ, The End Is To Make Them Like Us. While The Means To That End Is To Make Ourselves Like Them.