

1 Corinthians 9

-The "located preacher" (full-time paid preacher) question (a big issue in some congregations)

1 Corinthians 9.1-7

V1 – Not a new subject, just a further elaboration of *1 Cor. 8*

-How else has Paul been criticized by some members at Corinth? "He is not an apostle"

-Other places where this argument surfaces:

-*Rom. 1.1*

-*1 Cor. 1.1*

-*2 Cor. 1.1*

-*Gal. 1.1* – "not sent from men"

-*Eph. 1.1*

-*Col. 1.1*

-*1 Tim. 1.1*

-*2 Tim. 1.1*

-*Titus 1.1*

-Read 1 Cor. 15.3-10 – "born out of season"

-Had Paul seen Christ?

-*2 Cor. 5.16* – according to the flesh

-*Acts 9.17* – on the road to Damascus

V2 – Most Corinthians accepted his apostleship

V3 – List of proofs to follow

-defense for not eating meat (*1 Cor. 8.13*)

V4 – A reference to *8.13*

V5 – **Were the other apostles married?** - Notice: "believing wife" – *2 Cor. 6.14*

-*Matt. 8.14* – Peter was married (Jesus healed his mother-in-law) – interesting to point out to our Catholic friends – they are usually shocked

- "Cephas" – remember the 4 divisions at Corinth (respect for Peter)

V6 – Apostles had the right to be supported by the churches they established

-Paul also had the right to be paid, but he didn't take it

-Also *1 Tim. 5.17-18* – Elders can be paid

V7 – **Three examples of this principle?**

1. A general pays his soldiers

2. A vinedresser eats the grapes

3. A shepherd gets milk from the sheep

-Conclusion? We live off of whatever we do for a living

1 Corinthians 9.8-14

V 8 – "Just to prove this further – a look at the Old Testament"

V 9 – God cares for the animals

- Exod. 23.12* – rest for the ox and the donkey
- Deut. 24.18-25* – Many general principals of kindness
- Psalm 104.10-26* – God loves the animals
- Psalm 147.9* – rest for the beasts and the ravens
- Proverbs 12.10* – regard for animals
- Matt. 6.26* – birds of the air, sparrows

V 10 – This is a universal principle!

V 11 – A preacher therefore can get support from a church (sowing spiritual things)

V 12 – **Why did Paul not accept money from the Corinthians?** So as not to hinder the gospel

V 13 – More examples: Old Testament priest and pagan priests – a "share of the altar"

V 14 – This one verse should settle the "located preacher" argument forever

1 Corinthians 9.15-23

V 15 – Paul doesn't want his support to begin

- Why?** An empty boast – The members at Corinth would just complain about his getting salary
- Paul wanted to prevent a misunderstanding (a very delicate situation at Corinth)

V 16 – "Fire in my bones" (*Jer. 20.9*) – Paul cannot even brag about preaching; he felt compelled to preach

V 17 – Whether he enjoys his work or not, it still produces a result

V 18 – **Paul's goal?** To preach the gospel free of charge

1 Corinthians 9.19-23

V 19 – **How can he be free and yet a slave?** He is voluntarily a slave in the preaching of the gospel to all people

V 20 – **Two examples of Paul complying with Jewish custom?**

- Acts 16.3* – circumcision of Timothy
- Acts 21.23-26* – Paul in Jerusalem
- also preaching in the synagogues in the book of *Acts*

V 21 – Paul also adapted his preaching to Gentile audiences
-Paul quoted Gentile poets and writers (*Acts 17.28, Titus 1.12*)

V 22 – **How did he become like the weak?**
-No meat – *8.13*

V 23 – He will do anything that is Scriptural for the sake of the gospel
-Notice use of "all" in v 22-23
-He adapted to each society to win people to Christ
-We adapt today by the clothing that we wear, conforming to local customs and holidays, etc.
(as long as the principles of the Christian faith are not compromised)

1 Corinthians 9.24-27

V 24 – A reference to the Isthmian games (like the Olympics today) held in Corinth – winners received no money or prizes, but only a wreath (a great honor)

-Two types of churches:

1. Some just run (keep house)
2. Some run to get the prize

V 25 – Our "wreath" is eternal life
-Was Paul a jogger? No – a "sprinter"

V 26 – Boxing – one of the Isthmian games, but don't just beat the air

V 27 – Christianity takes great self-control, and it is hard to control our thoughts

Some congregations today: Little disagreements, petty complaints and our irritations
But Paul was striving with all he had to build up the church

- Remember the churches he had started and was responsible for
- His every muscle, every thought, every action was directed toward the good of the church and winning more people to Jesus Christ
- So we have that same kind of dedication today?

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