

LEADERS

Please encourage your group to visit doxachurch.net/help to sign up for an upcoming blood drive at the church on either May 21 or June 11.

LEARN

Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-18 together. What stands out from the text or from Sunday's sermon that was helpful, encouraging, or challenging?

How would you summarize Paul's argument in v. 1-18? Be sure to include the context of the church he's writing to, his rights, and his rationale for not using those rights.

(Ex: Paul gives an example of limiting liberty for the sake of love, like he calls the church to in ch. 8. Ministers have a right to make a living from their work in the gospel, yet he forsook it out of love for the Corinthians, much preferring to remove any hindrance to the gospel being advanced.)

How should we understand the sense in which Paul is "boasting" in v. 15 and 16?

(Rejoicing or glorying in the gospel, the power of God to save sinners, the thrill of salvation by grace.)

What is the reward Paul has in mind in this passage?

(Ex: Preaching free of charge despite his rights, causing no hindrance in the gospel going forward in a new region that otherwise may suspect he has ulterior to profit off of them.)

PRACTICE

How can we imitate Paul's example and passion when it comes to putting the mission of the gospel ahead of our rights, comfort, or preferences?

(Ideas: Knowing the gospel deeply will cause ongoing transformation, such that we see anything we sacrifice for Christ pales in comparison to knowing him. Sacrificial and consistent love to those who don't know Christ is always worth it as a display of God's grace.)

A reward inherently relates to something being valuable and worthy of sacrifice and effort. How should Christians think about participating in the advance of the gospel as a reward unto itself?

(We have no "right" to participate in God's redemptive work of saving sinners! Yet every Christian is called into service in some way to serve Christ, witness to the power of the grace of God, be an instrument in his hands for his glory. This privilege is a great reward in itself.)

CHANGE

Time for a "personal worship check in"! Take time to get a sense from each person of how they're doing in their walk with the Lord lately. How is Scripture reading going? What are they reading, and how often? How is their prayer life? Stale/non-existent... deep and consistent? Pray together for God to fuel a passion in each person for his Word, seeking him in prayer, and loving him wholeheartedly. Commit to a period of time (2-3 weeks) to circle back and get another update.