

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains a neighboring clause.

¹Am I not free?

Am I not an apostle?

Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?

Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you,
for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³This is my defense to those who would examine me.

⁴Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

⁵Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife,
as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

⁷Who 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?

⁸Do I say these things on human authority?

Does not the Law say the same?

⁹For 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?

¹⁰Does 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.

¹¹If we have sown spiritual things among you,

is it too much if we reap material things from you?

¹²If 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.

¹³Do 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?

¹⁴In the same way, the Lord commanded that

those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

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1. Is Paul still talking about food sacrificed to idols, or has he moved on to another topic? (Read 1 Corinthians 10:25-28)
 - a. Where does he move on to another topic?
2. What is Paul trying to prove with his questions in verses 1-2?
3. What are the two evidences that he gives?
4. In verses 4-11, what right does Paul say that the leaders of the church have? (He describes the right in a few different ways, but he is fundamentally speaking about one particular right.)
5. How do the three examples he lists in verse 7 support his claim?
6. After making a logical comparison to other occupations, where does Paul next turn for support?
7. In verse 9, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 25:4. How does he apply this scripture to paying ministers?

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 again.

8. Once Paul has defended this “right,” what does he say that he and Barnabas have done with it? And why does he say that they have done so?
9. In what ways might it “put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ” for Paul to ask for compensation from the Corinthians?
10. How did Paul generally support himself for his regular, daily expenses? (see Acts 18:3)
11. Did it make Paul’s life easier not to take money from the church? From where in the text do you get your answer?
12. Did Paul always refuse to accept financial support from the churches? From where in the Bible do you get your answer?
 - a. What circumstances may have prompted his acceptance of monetary gifts at certain times? (For example: See Philippians 1:12-14 and 4:14-18)
13. Why might Paul’s refusal to ask for compensation from them cause some in Corinth to challenge or question Paul’s authority?

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 again.

14. In addition to common sense, Paul has already brought in the Law of Moses as an authority. What final authority does he point to in this passage?

15. What does he say that the Lord commanded?

16. In Galatians 6:6 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18, Paul instructs the churches to pay the ministers who have devoted themselves full time to serving the church. Why is Paul doing differently than he has prescribed for other ministers? Be sure to draw your answer from his statements in this passage.

17. What do you think pay for ministers has to do with Paul's larger dealings in chapters 8-10 of food sacrificed to idols? (Try to step back and think in a bigger picture and about heart issues and attitudes.)

18. How can you apply the principles Paul discusses in this week's passage in your own life?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would rightly honor the leaders the Lord has given us in the church and also that we would each be willing and eager to forego our rights for the sake of the gospel.