

URGENT

1st
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1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church



Adult Bible Class Calendar Spring 2023

Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	February	5	Review of 1 Corinthians 1-7 & Preview of 1 Corinthians 8-11
2	February	12	1 Corinthians 8:1-6
3	February	19	1 Corinthians 8:7-13
4	February	26	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
5	March	5	1 Corinthians 9:15-27
6	March	12	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
7	March	19	1 Corinthians 10:14-22
8	March	26	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
9	April	2	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
10	April	9	1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Freedom of Conscience
Concerning Things God
Does Not Forbid or Command
1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

CONCERNING FOODS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS (8:1-11:1)

Modeling Proper Use and Non-Use of Christian Freedom (9:1-14)

Outline of 1 Corinthians

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Responses to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Responses to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4).
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - 1. Correcting the Problem: Knowledge and Love (8:1-13).
 - 2. **Modeling Proper Use & Non-Use of Christian Freedom (9:1-27).**
 - a. **Rights of Freedom (9:1-14).**
 - b. Freedom from Use of Rights (9:15-27).
 - 3. Applying a Warning: Israel's Example (10:1-13).
 - 4. An Analogy: The Lord's Table (10:14-22).
 - 5. Summarizing the Corrective: True Limitations of Christian Freedom (10:23-11:1).

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Modeling Proper Use & Non-Use of Christian Freedom

- **Rights of Freedom (9:1-14).**
 - **Apostolic Calling (9:1-6).**
 - **Human Affairs (9:7-12a).**
 - **Religious Institutions (9:12b-14).**

1 Corinthians 9:1-6

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

The Principle of Rights Grounded in an Apostolic Calling

1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-6

How Do Chapters 8 and 9 Fit Together?

- As one begins to read chapter 9, it may seem that Paul begins a new subject.
- Some scholars contend that chapter 9, in its entirety, defends Paul's apostolic ministry in response to critical opponents in Corinth.
- They argue this because of verse 3, as the NIV translates it—"This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me." This is both a misunderstanding and an exaggeration of Paul's use of "defense."
- Paul is not defending himself against opponents who dispute his apostleship. He must do that in 2 Corinthians 10-13 when outspoken critics attack his apostleship in Corinth.
- But here, in 1 Corinthians 9, Paul's statement is an open invitation for the Corinthians to examine how he has conducted himself when he has been among them.
- So, hear the verse again, as if for the first time: "This is my defense for those who would examine me."

The Content of Chapter 9 Fittingly Follows Chapter 8

- The placement of Paul's mention of "my defense" helps us recognize that he is not defending his apostleship.
- Rather, where he places "my defense" functions as an invitation for the Corinthians to scrutinize him, and by doing so they will be instructed.
- What are the last words he wrote before, "Am I not free?"?
- He wrote, "Therefore if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."
- What are the next words Paul wrote after 9:3?
- "Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife. . . ? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?"
- Clearly, by posing these questions, Paul invites the Corinthians to examine him as a role model they should follow.

Chapter 9 Continues Paul's Instructions in Chapter 8

- In chapter 8, Paul exhorts the “strong in conscience” to conduct themselves lovingly toward those who are “weak in conscience.”
- Those who are “strong in conscience” must accept foregoing the exercise of their freedom for the sake of the “weak in conscience.”
- This is the principle Paul illustrates by appealing to his practices when he was among the Corinthians.
- For the sake of the Corinthians, he chose to restrict the exercise of his apostolic freedom.
- He lists three apostolic rights he has chosen not to exercise.
 - The right to food and drink (9:4).
 - The right to have a wife (9:5).
 - The right to expect the church to support him with an income (9:6).

The Principle of Rights Grounded in Human Affairs

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1 CORINTHIANS 9:7-12A

1 Corinthians 9:7-12a

Who 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?

Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For 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? Does 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. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Rights Grounded in Human Affairs

- An argument from human analogy—military service and agriculture (9:7). The laborer should be remunerated for one's labor.
 - Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?
 - Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit?
 - Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?
- Argument from Scripture (9:8-9).
 - “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain” (Deut. 25:4).
 - This proverb embedded in the Mosaic Law is about humans.
- Argument from reasonable justice (9:11-12).
 - “If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?”
 - “If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?”

The Principle of Rights Grounded in Religious Institutions



1 CORINTHIANS 9:12B-14

1 Corinthians 9:12b-14

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. Do 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? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

Rights Grounded in Religious Institutions

- Argument from service in the temple. The practice in Israel's temple and pagan temples is that those who serve, receive benefits for their service (Numbers 18:8ff).
- Argument from Jesus' command. Paul seems to refer to Jesus' words recorded by Luke—"the worker is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7; Matt. 10:10).

Numbers 18:8-12

“Behold, I have given you charge of the contributions made to me, all the consecrated things of the people of Israel. I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual due. This shall be yours of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering of theirs and every sin offering of theirs and every guilt offering of theirs, which they render to me, shall be most holy to you and to your sons. In a most holy place shall you eat it. Every male may eat it; it is holy to you. This also is yours: the contribution of their gift, all the wave offerings of the people of Israel. I have given them to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the LORD, I give to you. The first ripe fruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.



Luke 10:5-8

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for *the laborer is worthy of his wages*. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

Matthew 10:9-11

Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for *the laborer is worthy of his food*. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.

We Did Not Use This Right

- Paul's statement in vs. 12 anticipates the following segment where he affirms the principle of not exercising Christian freedom for the sake of others.
- Though he possesses the freedom and right to expect financial support for his spiritual service, he does not claim any from the Corinthians.
- He specifies three reasons for this.

We Did Not Use This Right

- Free to enhance the free gospel (9:15-18).
- Free to save people from all of society (9:19-22).
- Free to save himself (9:23-27).

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