

The Life and Letters of Paul

1 Corinthians 9

1. It is interesting that the believers in Corinth were ok with his position until he started speaking about freedom and giving them up for others in the body if it hindered them. What is your tipping point, if it was challenged?

1 Corinthians 9:1/ 1 Corinthians 8:9- be careful with freedom that trips/ Romans 1:1- Authority given by Jesus confirmed by Ananias Acts 9:15-16-pray for him, he is mine

2. Paul goes on to confirm that the fact he has been sent is that the current church is the fruit of his labor, the evidence the results of preaching, teaching and growing people.
Seals in the ancient Near East were used to guarantee the quality and authenticity of a document.

1 Corinthians 9:2(NKJV)--seal /Ephesians 4:30(NKJV)-sealed till redemption

3. Some of the Corinthians seem to have questioned Paul's apostolic credentials and authority because he did not accept financial support from them. (it was as though they had nothing to hold over Paul)

1 Corinthians 9:3-6/ 1Tim 5:17-18- the right was there/Acts 18:3-Paul worked/2 Thessalonians 3:11-12- to set an example

4. With three examples from everyday life, Paul observes the obvious principle that those who work hard should benefit from their labor.

1 Corinthians 9:7/2 Thessalonians 3:10- this works both ways/Proverbs 27:18- tending

5. In a day where we have too many people preaching on what we feel, what we think we deserve or our human opinion Paul states what he speak is backed by the Law.

1 Corinthians 9:8-10/Deut 25:4.- back it up with the word

6. Compared with other Christian workers supported by the Corinthians, Paul claimed an even greater right to be supported by them, because he was the one who first brought the Good News to them. But to avoid criticism, he had never used this right

1 Corinthians 9:11-12/1 Cor 1:12-Apollos and Cephas- Others

7. Even though support was something God wanted his people to do for those working, Paul wanted to church to know this was not his reason in doing this. Why do you do the things you do for the Church? (this will determine your willingness to continue no matter what)

1 Corinthians 9:13-18/Galatians 1:1-By Jesus not man/Rom 15:17-19- Paul's payment was seeing God's people flourish.

8. Paul set aside all barriers that we sometimes use as an excuse to serve others, he made himself accessible to all without compromise to the Gospel so that they would receive the Gospel. (are you accessible to others)

1 Corinthians 9:19-21/Acts 16:3- Timothy took custom to gain an audience/Galatians 6:1-2- The messenger should never be more important than the message.

9. Are you, are we, or is the Church doing everything to spread the Good News?

1 Corinthians 9:22-23/Mark 16:15-Jesus said the same.

10. This extended athletic metaphor would have been understood in Corinth. The city was the location of the biennial Isthmian games, second in fame only to the Olympic games.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27/Philippians 3:12-14-Paul pressing on race/2 Timothy 4:7-8-fight