

I Corinthians

(18) Paul personally yields his freedom

1 Cor 9:1 *Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?* 2 *Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

3 *This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me.* 4 *Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?* 6 *Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?*

7 *Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?* 8 *Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing?* 9 *For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned?* 10 *Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.* 11 *If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?* 12 *If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?*

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 *Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?* 14 *In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.* NIV

Paul's personal practice of 'no stumbling block' (8:9-13)...9:1-14

What does Paul use now to *demonstrate* 8:9-13? 9:1-2, 12; Acts 9:15

What is his response to those who were challenging his authority? 9:3-6; I Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6

What is his next argument/defense regarding his support? 9:7-12a (multiple examples)

What is the *base principle* Paul gives on *ministry support*? 9:13-14; Nu. 18:8-13; Gal. 6:6

But what was Paul's position regarding *his rights* in this? 9:12b, 15, 18; I Thess. 2:9; II Thess. 3:8

What is Paul's overall teaching re Christian freedom? 10:32-33 see 8:9-13 (NOTE: expansion!)

Paul's strategy for preaching the Gospel...9:15-28

Was this just Paul's way of *manipulating* support? 9:15 see II Cor. 11:8-9; Acts 20:30-35

What does Paul affirm in 9:16? Rom. 1:14-15; Acts 9:3-6; Gal. 1:15-16

So what had Paul determined to do to get a reward? 9:17-18

Is Paul here indicating that *his choice* is *required* for every minister?

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Paul's personal practice of 'no stumbling block' (8:9-13)...9:1-14

What does Paul use now to *demonstrate* 8:9-13? 9:1-2, 12; Acts 9:15

He uses rhetorical questions. Paul is free, an Apostle, seen Christ, and they were his fruit!

What is his response to those who were challenging his authority? 9:3-6; I Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6

Don't I have 'rights' like the other Apostles? Right to living support, or a believing wife?

What is his next argument/defense regarding his support? 9:7-12a (multiple examples)

Those working the field are to live from their work (9:10-11). He sowed. He should reap \$.

What is the *base principle* Paul gives on *ministry support*? 9:13-14; Nu. 18:8-13; Gal. 6:6

The Lord commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from it.

But what was Paul's position regarding *his rights* in this? 9:12b, 15, 18; I Thess. 2:9; II Thess. 3:8

He'd determined to support himself and not 'charge' for the Gospel. Didn't use his rights.

What is Paul's overall teaching re Christian freedom? 10:32-33 see 8:9-13 (NOTE: expansion!)

He gave up his rights so as not to offend anyone, Jews, Greeks, or the Church. Anyone!

Paul's strategy for preaching the Gospel...9:15-28

Was this just Paul's way of *manipulating* support? 9:15 see II Cor. 11:8-9; Acts 20:30-35

Never! He would rather die than have anyone deprive him of this ministry! Others, not me

What does Paul affirm in 9:16? Rom. 1:14-15; Acts 9:3-6; Gal. 1:15-16

He can't boast about preaching. He was compelled to preach! Woe if he didn't!

So what had Paul determined to do to get a reward? 9:17-18

His choice was to offer the Gospel free of charge, not using his rights. He chose this!

Is Paul here indicating that *his choice* is *required* for every minister?

No! The Lord requires us to support our ministers. But ministers not required to accept!