



TEACH ME  
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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CHAPTER

9

1 CORINTHIANS

*Divisions in the Church*



## 1 Corinthians: Chapter 9

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If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:  
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

*The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)*

*Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)*

*Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)*

*Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)*

### REVIEW

The Corinthian church was divided with some claiming identity with Paul, others with Apollos, others with Cephas (Peter), and others with Christ. For this reason, Paul found himself under their examination, having to explain his actions to them. The defense of his actions, and his motivation for them, is spelled out in chapters 7 through 9. Apparently, the Corinthian questioning of Paul came in three areas: his marital status, his diet, and his compensation. Chapter 9 is the explanation of why he is unwilling to receive compensation from the Corinthian church.



## 1 Corinthians: Chapter 9

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### MONDAY

Listen to the Chapter 9 podcast.

### TUESDAY

In 1 Corinthians 9:3 Paul states, *“My defense to those who examine me is this...”*

**Review chapters 1 through 4.** Remember that the word that has been translated “examine” in 9:3 (NASB) is the same Greek word that has been translated “appraise” in 2:14, 2:15 (2x); 4:3 (2x), and 4:4.

Can you follow Paul’s argument through the first four chapters and relate them to 9:3?

In chapters 5 and 6, do you see Paul’s discussion about their inability to judge among themselves?

**Now take a look at 7:1.** Do you see that he is answering questions about 1) marriage (chapter 7), and 2) diet (chapter 8)?

Does this help you follow Paul’s argument?

### WEDNESDAY

In 1 Corinthians 9:3 Paul states, *“My defense to those who examine me is this...”*

**Review chapter 7 in light of 1 Corinthians 9:5.**

**Review chapter 8 in light of 1 Corinthians 9:4.**

How would you summarize Paul’s defense?

**Go back and take a look at 4:1-5.** Pay particular attention to Paul’s statement about “motives” in 4:5.

How does that statement relate to chapters 7, 8, and 9?



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### THURSDAY

In 1 Corinthians 9:6 Paul asks the third of three questions, “...or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working?” Remember back in 1 Corinthians 4:11-12 Paul, in explaining his actions, states “To this present hour we (apostles) are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated (i.e., “beaten”), and are homeless, and we toil (or labor), working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate...” Notice that Paul is laboring, working with his own hands. Then, in 1 Corinthians 9:9 Paul writes, “For it is written in the Law of Moses, ‘you shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing’...” This verse has been used as a defense for paying a pastor.

What is the point that Paul is making here (pay special attention to 9:12-19)? In other words, explain why Paul establishes the right of “getting paid” but then does not exercise that right.

What is the reason that he gives for this?

### FRIDAY

Why didn’t Paul take a believing wife?

Why didn’t Paul exercise his rights in eating and drinking?

Why did Paul refuse payment from the Corinthians? What were his motives? Will he be rewarded for this (reread 4:5)?

**Jump forward in Paul’s letter and read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1.** In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul gives the command, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

Do you think that that command should rightly apply to all believers in all ages?

If so, evaluate your motives and actions.