

# I Corinthians 9 – 19 December 2021

## “Do No Harm Part 2 of 3: Invoking Your Rights”

### Introduction

\*We're in a very practical book, teaching us about:

- Divisions (*Chapters 1-4*), Disputes (*Chapters 5-6*)
- Christian marriage when ideal is lost (*Chap 7*)
- Conscience issues & Christian Liberty (*Chap 8-10*)
- Proper public worship (*Chap 11-14*)
- Doctrine of the Resurrection (*Chap 15-16*)

\*Conscience issues are questions that, in & of themselves, don't have a Biblical right or wrong

\*Can I drink liquor? Should I get the vaccine?

\*Is this outfit modest enough? Should I eat meat?

\*In answering question about meats, he addresses a primary goal for us toward others, that is DO NO HARM

\*In chap 9 Paul launches from chap 8:13 to say “not just in conscience issues but in any issue, how do we handle OUR RIGHTS” – this is a reflection of how you conduct the business of the church

**\*Today 3 steps for deciding how to handle your business within the church**

# **1<sup>st</sup> step for handling your business w/i the church is to see your rights and rewards (Vs 1-11)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. Paul has clearly given them from what the Lord gave Him
2. Paul has a special position, no doubt.
  - a. Paul's position & work put into them gives him the right to expect to get from them

Read Vs 3-6

1. "Sister" = a sister in Christ to be your wife
2. Paul had the right to expect that those he served the Gospel to would provide for his food & even his family...if he had one
3. Interesting Peter had wife b/c Catholics consider Peter 1<sup>st</sup> Pope, yet they mandate celibacy

## Read Vs 7

1. In every field of work the laborer has the right to expect return from what he's put work into
2. All Christian servants have this natural right to receive from their labor

## Read Vs 8-10

1. Bible is to be applied at many layers & levels
  - a. The Bible explicitly says so
    - i. Read Gal 4:22-24
    - ii. Read Luke 24:25-27
  - b. Looking Book of Ruth
    - i. Yes, it's Ruth being received by her gracious redeemer Boaz
    - ii. But it's also the Gentiles being received by our gracious Redeemer Jesus
2. Ones providing service should receive payment
  - a. Bible Teachers even double – I Tim 5:17

## Read Vs 11

1. Surely to benefit them spiritually is far greater than to return money to ministers/teachers like Paul

## **2<sup>nd</sup> step for handling your business w/i the church is to accept the calling & not an economy (Vs 12-17)**

Read Vs 12

1. Corinthians did financially support some people but not Paul
2. Paul “suffered all things” in that he worked a 2<sup>nd</sup> job after hours to provide for the ministry
3. Paul has already set in his heart that paid or unpaid, he’s called to spread the Gospel
  - a. That’s the choice before every Christian
    - i. Are you living for men or for an audience of One?
    - ii. Would you serve Christ even if you never got what was rightly owed to you?

Read Vs 13-14

1. Just as it was in the Law of Moses that the priests were provided for b/c of their service, so should it be in the Church

## Read Vs 15

1. Paul didn't write this for the express purpose of changing their mind about their donations to him
  - a. He's writing this as example of prev chap
  - b. How to deny your rights for a greater cause
2. Paul's content to wait for the glory of God to be laid on him, he doesn't need the glory of man
3. Read II Cor 11:9-10 – Paul's desire is to give w/o getting at all
4. Our calling to serve God is greater than our rights to earthly things

## Read Vs 16-17

1. Dispensation = economy or business
  - a. If you're serving b/c it's your pleasure to serve God, you'll be rewarded of Him
  - b. If you're serving just for a job or business than **THAT'S** your reward (& that's it)
2. Do you want to be a hireling; doing the bidding of the people or a minister; doing the bidding of God?

## **3<sup>rd</sup> step for handling your business w/i the church is to have the goal of giving (Vs 18-27)**

Read Vs 18-19

1. You're in one of two mindsets
  - a. The mindset of 'give & take' business or
  - b. The mindset of 'I'm here to bless others with grace undeserved'
2. Invoking our rights hinders our goal of winning souls to Jesus

Read Vs 20

1. Paul limited the liberties he may have taken as to not offend the Jews under the Law
2. He had a distinct goal...to win them to Jesus

Read Vs 21

1. Around Gentiles Paul didn't concern himself w/ the Law of Moses
  - a. Not that he was lawless or selfish
  - b. As believers we're under the law of Christ

- i. Law of Christ is grace & truth (John 1:17)
- ii. Law of Christ is love (John 13:34). Love is the fulfillment of the Law (Gal 5:14)

### Read Vs 22-23

1. Paul wants badly to be a part of seeing people come to know Jesus, that he'll do whatever it takes
2. Is this our posture?

### Read Vs 24-25

1. Why do a thing just b/c? Do it to be great at it!
2. *Agonizomai*—same as in (Read) I Tim 6:12
3. In competing in the Olympics, other needs are set aside to focus on the ONE goal of winning
  - a. We're in race that HAS a crown to be won

### Read Vs 26-27

1. Getting too much earthly honor leads to pride
  - a. God resists proud but gives grace to humble
2. What is goal of your Christianity? Paul had one

## Conclusion

So, to close, consider that invoking our rights will just hinder the Gospel being receiving and growing.

So DO NO HARM. How do we handle our business within the church?

- 1. Understand that we do have a right to receive a reward for the service we provide**
  - a. When we service other in Christian ministry, it's of great value
  - b. Those that see that give back to the ministry
- 2. Accept that our calling is not for economy**
  - a. Will you live in expectation that men will always reward you or that God will reward you?
  - b. The reward of the Lord is far greater!
- 3. Have the goal of giving**
  - a. Will you always be concerned w/ getting your due or
  - b. Will you find the peace of simply blessing others

**It's our business within the church to do no business, instead we're to give graciously!**