

1 Corinthians chapter 9

The freedom and rights of a Bible believing minister.

1 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

Paul's defense of his Apostleship. Paul defends his apostleship twice in his epistles. The first one is right here. The second time is in Galatians 1:11-2:9

Four questions are asked by the apostille Paul

1. **Am I not an apostle? Paul has been fighting this question his whole christian life. The Jews don't care if he is an apostille or not, so this problem with authority is coming from the Christian community.**
2. **Am I not free? Paul was a Roman citizen, so he was a free man.**
3. **Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Paul had seen the Lord on the road to damascus.**
4. **Are not ye my work in the Lord? This church at Corinth was a lot of work.**

2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

These Corinthian believers were the evidence of Paul's apostleship.

God had used him to turn many from pagan idolatry. Paul calls this church "The seal of his apostleship".

Paul has seen the Lord Jesus Christ at his initial meeting at his conversion. There was another time in the book of (Acts 26:16)

3 Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,

4 Have we not power to eat and to drink?

5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

It is the Christians duty to financially support his ministers.

1. **Who goeth a warfare**
2. **Who planted a vineyard**
3. **Who feedeth a flock**

8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

Deut. 25:4

10 Or saith he *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of *this* power over you, *are* not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

10 times Paul asks this question in re-proof. "Do ye not know"

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Even in the O.T. The priests and Levites were given part of the sacrifice.

15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for *it were* better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel. Warning.

I didn't choose to preach it, but the responsibility was laid on me by the Lord.

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me.

Dispensation in the gospel is never a period of time. It is means of an act of dispensing something.

18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul did not use his authority for personal gain.

Paul's "wages" were the joy he got from preaching the Gospel without receiving financial compensation.

19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

Paul was a true servant

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;
The Jews.

I became as a Jew? That I might gain the Jews? “ Paul is a Jew”

In this dispensation, the Jews are free of the law.

What is Paul saying ? I think Paul is saying that he is not willing to stay in his rite. Paul is willing to go out of his comfort zone to reach people groups that he himself is not terribly comfortable with.

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

Paul’s conduct towards the weak, Paul will be gentle with them, for the gospels sake.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*.

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Sports: Paul is addressing the sportsman of his time, the runner. The marathon runners of the times of Greece. The physical sportsmen who run the race are given a prize for the victory. But Paul is talking about another prize, that ye may obtain. This prize does not require physical prowess to win.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

How rigidly the contestants denied themselves. How tirelessly they trained themselves. For this corruptible reward.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:
Paul is now describing another sport, the sport of boxing. The fighter, the man in the ring. Not as one that beateth the air, or the shadow boxer.

27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.