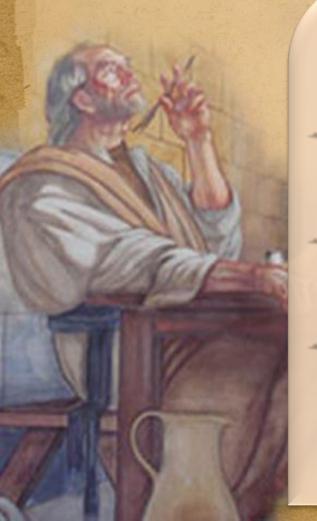
"Now Concerning" Reply To Their Letter Liberty In Christ - 7:1-16:4

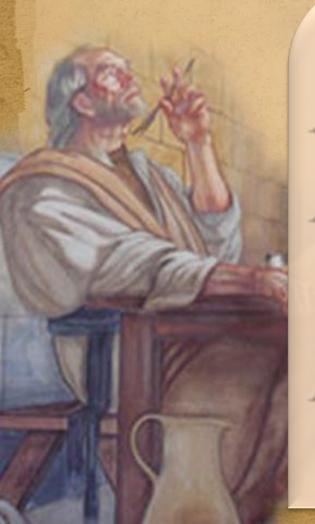
Paul: An Example & Pattern of Self Denial

1 Corinthians 9:1-27



AN IMPORTANT ISSUE: (Acts 15:28,29; Rev. 2:14,20)

- → Meats offered to idols were used in the observance of pagan feast -
- → Meats offered to idols were sold in the markets with other meat –
- → These meats were purchased by individuals and thus used to entertain guest in their homes –



AN IMPORTANT ISSUE: (Acts 15:28,29; Rev. 2:14,20)

- ★ Could a Christian attend a banquet in an idols temple? (10:14-18)
- ◆ Could a Christian eat meat sacrificed to idols that he inadvertently bought at the market? (10:25)
- ◆ Could a Christian eat meat sacrificed to an idol in the home of an unbelieving friend? (10:27,28)



Lessons From Chapter 8

- ★ Knowledge can puff up but LOVE builds up – 8:1-3
- ◆ There is only one God 8:4-7
- ◆ The importance of protecting the conscience – 8:7-8
- My primary concern in Christ is the brother for whom He died − 8:9-13



Introduction to Chapter 9

- → Not disconnected from chapter 8
- ◆ Some Corinthians (w/ knowledge) contended that they had the "right" to eat meat offered to idols -
- → 'The principle of self-denying love which Paul has just applied to the practice of eating idol meats is so important that he elaborates it by using himself as an example.' Lenski p. 350 (8:13-9:27)

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³ My defense to those who examine me is this: ⁴ Do we have no right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

⁶ Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working? ⁷ Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? ⁸ Do I say these things as a *mere* man? Or does not the law say the same also? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things? ¹² If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹³ Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of *the offerings* of the altar? ¹⁴ Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it *would be* better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; ²¹ to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

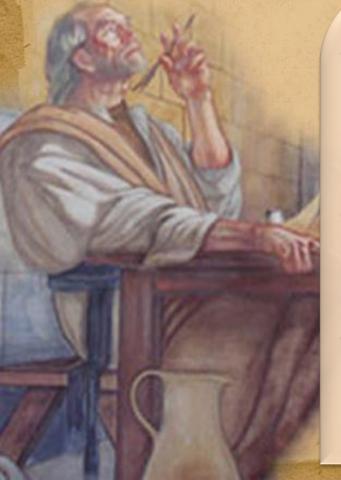
1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*. ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

²⁵ And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27) Paul Defends His Apostleship - 1-3



- ★ "Am I not an Apostle?" some were questioning Paul's authority (4:1-5, 18-21; 14:36-37) Paul again defends his apostleship in 2 Cor. 11:5ff; 12:11,12
- ★ "Am I not free?" having the same rights and liberties as any other Christian.
- → "Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?" – a qualification for being an apostle – (Acts 1:21,22; 22:14-15; 26:16)

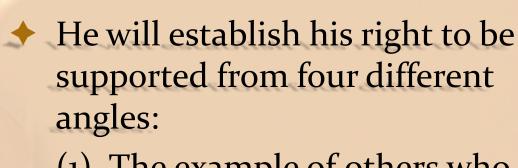
Example of Self Denial (9:1-27) Paul Defends His Apostleship - 1-3



- ★ "Are you not my work in the Lord?" (vss. 1,2) The one church where there should have been no question about Paul's apostleship was Corinth, because of the abundance of gifts (Acts 8:18; 2 Cor. 12:12)
- ◆ "For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord"- their existence "in the Lord" stamps Paul's ministry with the divine seal of authenticity.' (Fee pp. 396-397)

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Defense of Being Financially
Supported: 9:4-14



- (1) The example of others who preach the word-9:4-6.
- (2) Common sense-9:7-8.
- (3) The Law-9:8-13; 1 Tim. 5:17,18
- (4) Jesus Christ-9:14.

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Defense of Being Financially
Supported: 9:4-14



'Since this touchy issue is addressed again--in a similarly defensive way in 2 Corinthians (11:7-12; 12:13), it seems certain that they raised it. And since this occurs in the context of defending his apostleship (1-3), most likely his failure to take support has been used against him to call his apostolic authenticity into question.' (Fee pp. 398-399)

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Defending His "Right" Not To Use His "Rights": 9:15-23



♦ "But I use none of these things . . ." - I have foregone my rights - The whole point of this chapter is his abstinence from using his rights, and the lesson to the Corinthians that they ought to do likewise: give up their rights out of love for their weak brethren.

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- ✦ He was not teaching or writing to them so he could get money from them – (15)
- → Paul could not glory in teaching the gospel - He did it by necessity—(16; (Acts 9:6,15; 22:14-15; 26:15-19; Gal 1:15f; Rom 1:14).
- → Willingly or unwillingly the duty was still his – (17)

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- → Paul gladly accepted his duties as an apostle / evangelist – (18)
 - One who chafes under the duty the Lord has laid upon him will not be successful.
 - The only thing of which he could boast was that he had laid aside his rights for their benefit this was his pay.

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- → "Freedom/Rights" were not Paul's goal, rather it was the salvation of others.
- Making oneself a servant of others, is following the example of Christ (Phil. 2:5-8),
 - The ultimate expression of true Christianity, because it is truly Christ like behavior.

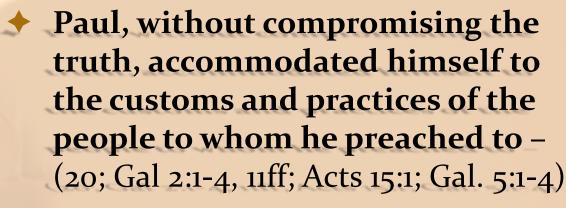
Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- ► There is no freedom which we cannot abstain from exercising (We should Make ourselves servants of all) (19; Mt 19:27-30, John 13, etc).
- → Paul was Jewish but he wasn't Jewish - He was a Christian and free from the Jewish ceremonies, rituals and laws - (20; Col. 2:16)

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

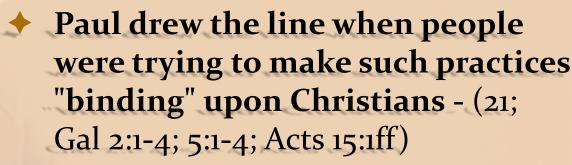
Defending His "Right" Not To Use His "Rights": 9:15-23



✦ He tried to avoid needless offences - (Acts 16:3) When among Jews he would respect their food laws, feasts (Acts 20:16; 21:26; 18:18)

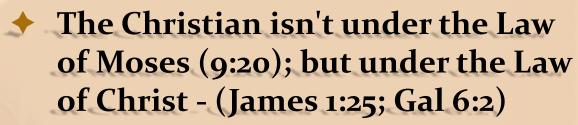
Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Defending His "Right" Not To Use His "Rights": 9:15-23



Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Defending His "Right" Not To Use His "Rights": 9:15-23



★ Two facts are obvious from Paul's comments: (1) There has been a change in laws-compare 9:20 and 9:21. (2) Grace and law are not incompatible. For both exist in a relationship with Christ.

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- → Paul did not allow his strength to prevent him from reaching the weak – (22) This could be either Gentiles (8:7) or Jews, with their scruples.
- → His goal was to bring the message of salvation to as many as possible
 - The power to save is the gospel! If we insist on using our rights, we may obstruct the spread of the gospel).

Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)



- → It's not about pleasing men, but to save them, thus pleasing God - (Gal 1:10).
- ★ Are "we" this dedicated to the winning of lost souls?

Self-Control Required - 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:24
(NKJV)
24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

- ★ Every two years . . . the Isthmian games take place. The runners in those races strain to do their very best. (McGuiggan p. 131)
- Entering is not enough - one must win the race to gain the prize
- ★ An athlete that wants to win will do whatever is necessary to win – how serious are we when it comes to the race of life?

Self-Control Required - 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

- ★ Think about the self control athletes today have to implement to be successful to gain a fleeting reward ('For this worthless, withering symbol of victory, men made measureless sacrifice.' (McGarvey p. 95)
- → Yet the Corinthians wouldn't even give up food for a brothers soul and progress of the gospel!

Self-Control Required - 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:26
(NKJV)

26 Therefore I run
thus: not with
uncertainty. Thus I
fight: not as one
who beats the air.

- → 'I therefore so run'-Paul reveals
 what on his part he is determined
 to do. Like Joshua of old. (Joshua
 24:15)
- → 'as not uncertainly'-'So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step.' (Tay); 'So I keep on running, but not aimlessly.' 'Without doubt or hesitation.' (McGarvey p. 95)

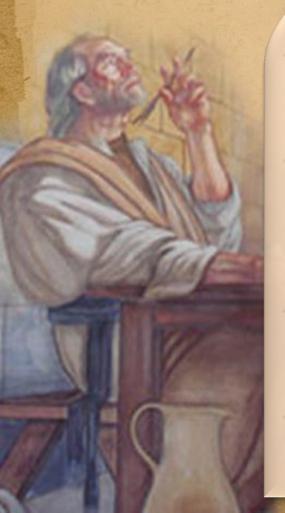
Example of Self Denial (9:1-27)

Self-Control Required - 9:24-27

1 Corinthians 9:27
(NKJV)

27 But I discipline my
body and bring it
into subjection, lest,
when I have
preached to others, I
myself should
become disqualified.

- → 'but I buffet my body'-'to beat black and blue' (Robertson p. 149)
- → 'and bring it into bondage'-'and make it my slave, i.e. make it serve my purposes in the gospel.' (Fee p. 439)
- → 'I myself should be rejected'-i.e.
 disqualified because he broke the
 rules of the race. (Mat 7:22; 2 Tim 2:5)
- → Paul believed that he could forfeit his own salvation, if he became a selfish and complacent . . .



- → Paul, as an apostle, did not demand his "rights" - 9:1-3
- → He refused to be supported for the furtherance of the gospel even though he had the right 9:4-14
- → Paul defended his "right" not to use his "rights": 9:15-23
- → Self-control is demanded in the realm of personal liberty: 9:24-27

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)

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