



"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

QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:I-II:I)

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 -



QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:I-II:I)

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)



QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:I-II:I)

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



QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:1-11:1)

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)



PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹ Am 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?

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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?

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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.

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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.

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

1 Corinthians 9:1-27 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast 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.

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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;

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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*.

PATTERN OF SELF DENIAL— (9:1-27)

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



- ◆ He will establish his right to be supported from four different angles:
 - (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)

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



- ✦ 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)

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



- ◆ 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)

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



- ◆ "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)

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



- ✦ 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



- ✦ Paul, without compromising the truth, accommodated himself to the customs and practices of the people to whom he preached to – (20; Gal 2:1-4, 11ff; Acts 15:1; Gal. 5:1-4)
- ✦ 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



- ✦ Paul drew the line when people were trying to make such practices "binding" upon Christians - (21; Gal 2:1-4; 5:1-4; Acts 15:1ff)
- ✦ 'them that are without law'-i.e. Gentiles who were never under the Law of Moses. And yet they were clearly accountable to God's laws. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom 1:18ff; 3:23; Lev 18:24)

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)

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



- ◆ **The Christian isn't under the Law of Moses (9:20); but under the Law of Christ - (James 1:25; Gal 6:2)**
- ◆ **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)

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



- ◆ 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)

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



- ✦ True liberty must be employed in a spirit of love.
- ✦ 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?

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)

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?

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)

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!

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)

Self-Control Required - 9:24-27



**1 Corinthians 9:26
(NKJV)**

**²⁶Therefore 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 . . .

EXAMPLE OF SELF DENIAL (9:1-27)



- ✦ 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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