

1st Corinthians 9:1-14

Paul exemplifies relinquishing one's legitimate rights (cf. 8:13)

Assumptions and application—9:1-2

- 1) Assumptions—9:1 ¹ *Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are **you**^{pl} (emphatic) not my work in the Lord?* (assumed Yes answers)
- 2) Application—9:2 ² *If [1st class condition] I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to **you**^{pl}, for **you**^{pl} (emphatic) are the (authenticating) seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

Paul's defense of his right for financial support—9:3-7

- 1) Paul's defense—³ *My defense [apologia] to those who (cross-) examine me is this:*
- 2) The use of one's rights—9:4-6 (cf. 8:9)
 - a) Assumed Yes
 - i) Financial support—⁴ *Do we not have the right to eat and to drink?*
 - ii) Marriage—⁵ *Do we not have the right to take along a believing (lit. "sister") wife, as do also the rest of the apostles, and the Lord's brothers, and Cephas?*
 - b) Assumed No—⁶ *Or do only Barnabas and I not have the right not to work?*
 - i) Some apparently considered Paul's manual labor as demeaning.
- 3) Rhetorical questions illustrated from everyday life—9:7 (assumed Nobody)
 - a) Soldiers—⁷ *Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?*
 - b) Vinedressers—*Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit?*
 - c) Shepherds—*Or who tends a flock and does not consume the milk of the flock?*

Paul's appeal for financial support is based on the authority of God's Word—9:8-11

- 1) The Old Testament concept—9:8-10
 - a) Assumed No—⁸ *Do I say these things according to a human perspective?*
 - b) Assumed Yes—*Or does not the Law also say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." (cf. Deuteronomy 25:4 (note that the context is about human relationships))*
 - c) Assumed No—*God is not concerned about the oxen, is he? (cf. Proverbs 12:10)*
 - d) Assumed Yes—¹⁰ *Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it is written, so that the one plowing ought to plow in hope, and the thresher in hope of sharing in his hope.*
- 2) The practical application—9:11 ¹¹ *If [1st class condition] **we** (emphatic) have sown spiritual things among **you**^{pl}, is it too much if **we** (emphatic) reap **your**^{pl} material things?*

Paul appeals to basic principles for financial support—9:12-14

- 1) In comparison to other teachers—9:12
 - a) ¹² *If [1st class condition] others are sharing this right over **you**^{pl}, do we not even more?*
 - b) Principle—*Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we put up with everything so that we are not a hindrance to the gospel of (about) the Christ.*
 - i) Paul freely chooses not to make use of that which is rightfully his.
- 2) In comparison to the Temple—9:13 ¹³ *Do **you**^{pl} not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who serve at the altar have their share from the altar?* (assumed Yes; cf. Numbers 18:8-24)
- 3) Teaching from Jesus Himself—9:14 ¹⁴ *Even so the Lord has ordered (cf. Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7) for those who proclaim the gospel to be (earning their) living from the gospel.*