

Love • Liberty

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: BEN WONG

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2021

Paul Defends His Apostolic Rights/Authority 1 Cor. 9:1-12

Paul defends his apostleship.

1. Paul's use of his own freedom and his role as an apostle has been called into question.

1 Cor. 9:1a Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?

2. Paul demonstrates the validity of his apostleship.

1 Cor. 9:1b Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

- a. He has personally seen, and has been commissioned by, Jesus...
- b. ...to establish churches in new areas (Corinth is one of these churches).

Paul defends his apostolic freedoms.

1 Cor. 9:3 This is my defense to those who would examine me.

1. Paul establishes his right to...

- a. ...sustenance.

1 Cor. 9:4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

- b. ...marriage.

1 Cor. 9:5 Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

- c. ...wages.

1 Cor. 9:6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

2. Paul defends his freedoms with common sense.

1 Cor. 9:7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

3. Paul defends his freedoms with scripture.

1 Cor. 9:8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? 10 Does he not speak certainly for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

4. Paul defends his freedoms by pointing to his role in the Corinthian church.

1 Cor. 9:11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12a If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

SPOILER ALERT: By defending his apostolic freedoms, Paul is now ready to show how love informed his decision to lay down those freedoms.

1 Cor. 9:12b Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Phil. 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Reflection/Discussion

1. Take time this week to read through 1 Corinthians 8 and 9. Reflect on what we have discussed on Sunday mornings and at our Love and Liberty Groups. What have you gleaned so far?
2. How are you doing with the memorization of 1 Corinthians 8:6? Make sure to reflect on the relational component of our life with God.
3. In your own life, in what ways have you sacrificed certain freedoms for the sake of your brothers and sisters?

SONGS

"Grateful" - Stefan Green, Chris Brown, Matthew Ntlele, and Steven Furtick

"Graves Into Gardens" - Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer

"Jesus We Love You" - Hannah McClure, Kalley Heiligenthal, and Paul McClure

"Man Of Sorrows" - Brooke Fraser and Matt Crocker

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$39,797.90

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,322,122.94

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,410,880.00