

I. Introduction: Paul urged the Corinthians to limit their freedoms in Christ for the sake of the Gospel, so that the church would see people embrace Jesus as their Savior.

- A. Paul demonstrated the principle that he was teaching, by limiting his own finances, freedom, and comfort, so that others might be won to Jesus Christ.

II. For the Sake of the Gospel (1 Cor 9:15-27).

A. He Sacrificed Finances (vv. 15-18).

1. Paul refused to accept any money as an evangelist because he wanted to offer the Gospel without cost, so that no one would be hindered from coming to Jesus.

B. He Sacrificed Rights (vv. 19-23).

1. Paul said that even though he was free, he had sacrificed his freedoms and became a slave of the people, so that he might win more people to Christ.

C. He Sacrificed Self (vv. 24-27).

1. Paul contended that sharing the Gospel required the greatest amount of discipline, and the highest exertion of energy if they wanted to see people won to Jesus.

III. Conclusion: Paul told the Corinthians he would give his all for the sake of the Gospel, because he wanted to see people won to Jesus and their eternal destinies changed.

Questions About: For the Sake of the Gospel

1. What sacrifices for the Gospel are you willing to make? What liberties would you be willing to give up? What would you be willing to give up financially so others can know Jesus?
2. How did Paul pay for his own way, while preaching Jesus? (**1 Thess 2:9; 2 Thess 3:7-9; 2 Cor 11:8-9**) Why do you think he did this? (**1 Cor 9:12**) Why did the other Apostles not do this?
3. How did Paul sacrifice his rights to preach the Gospel? (**1 Cor 9:15-18**) Why did Paul say he'd rather die than receive money? (**v. 15**) How was the Gospel more important than his finances?
4. Why did Paul say he was under compulsion to preach? (**v. 16**) What did he mean by "woe is me..."? (**v. 16**) Is preaching the Gospel a reward or a stewardship? (**vv. 17-18**)
5. How did Paul sacrifice his rights to preach the Gospel? (**1 Cor 9:19-23**) How was he free and a slave? (**v. 19**) How did Paul become a Jew to win Jews? (**v. 20**) Or a Gentile to win Gentiles?
6. Who were the "weak" that Paul spoke about? (**v. 22**) What did he mean by, "I have become all things to all men..."? (**v. 22**) Did Paul ever compromise his methods or the message?
7. What metaphor did Paul use to describe his ministry? (**1 Cor 9:24-27**) What did he mean when he said, "run to win"? (**v. 24**) What is the primary attribute an athlete must possess? (**v. 25**)
8. When our life is over, will we see anyone we know won to Christ? Will we see any souls saved? Have you engaged in any missionary efforts? Have you ever shared Jesus?

Prayer

1. Ask God to help you see where you can sacrifice, so that you or others can preach Jesus Christ.
2. Ask God to give you the opportunity to share Jesus with your family, friends, or neighbors.