



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Free to Be a Gospel Servant

Sunday, October 9, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 9:1–27

In chapters 8-10, Paul addresses three situations confronting the Corinthians related to the temple meat: 1) the eating of the idol meat at the pagan temple (1 Cor 8:10; 10:14–22), 2) the buying of the temple meat sold at the marketplaces (1 Cor 10:25), and 3) the eating of the temple meat at the home of an unbeliever.

Paul had just forbidden the “strong” Corinthians from attending the cultic meals at the temples. They challenged this prohibition by arguing for the theological right to do so, (8:1, 4, 8), and by calling into question Paul’s apostolic authority. Paul sets forth the case for his apostolic authority and the freedom to limit that authority for the sake of the gospel.

I. PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTOLIC RIGHTS (9:1b-14).

A. Paul’s Apostolic Authority (9:1)

B. Paul’s Apostolic Proof (9:2)

C. Paul’s Apostolic Rights (9:3-14)

1. Paul has the right to be fed by those to whom he ministered (9:4).

2. Paul has the right to have a wife with him in ministry (9:5).

3. Paul has the right to economic support (9:6).

a. Paul uses three analogies to show his right to economic support (9:7).

(1) The Analogy From War— Does any soldier serve at his own expense? No

- (2) The Analogy from the Vineyard— Do farmers eat from their produce? Yes
- (3) The Analogy from the Farm— Do shepherds drink milk from their flocks? Yes

b. Paul uses Scripture as the foundation for his economic support: It is found in the Law (1 Cor 9:8-10).

4. Paul has the right to receive material support from the Corinthian Church (9:11-14).

II. PAUL DEFENDS HIS RIGHT TO GIVE UP HIS “RIGHTS” (9:15-23).

A. Paul gives up his right to support for personal reasons (9:15-18).

B. Paul gives up his right to support for the sake of the gospel (9:19-23).

III. APPLICATION

A. Be willing to set aside your “freedom” for the sake of the gospel.

B. Give “no hindrances to the gospel” by insisting on the right to participate in behavior that is questionable.

C. Look at your “freedoms” as an opportunity to be a servant to all.