

Refusing to Use Liberty for the Sake of Liberating the Gospel (1 Cor 9:15-23)

- Paul continues to illustrate the principle of love that limits Christian liberty
- vs. 1-14 Paul illustrates the principle by foregoing any financial support
- He gave six reasons why he had the right to be support but chose not to
 - 1) He was an apostle (9:1-6)
 - 2) It was customary (9:7)
 - 3) It is God's law (9:8-11)
 - 4) It's done for others (9:12)
 - 5) Universal pattern (9:13)
 - 6) Jesus ordained it (9:14)
- Paul chose not to use his liberty for financial support out of deep conviction

I. To Keep from Losing His Reward (9:16-18)

- 1) The reward was not for the message or the ministry of the Gospel
 - Paul's boasting was always in the things of God (1 Cor 1:31; Rom 15:17)
 - But he says: **For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting**
 - He was constrained to preach **"Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"** (16)
- 2) The reward was for preaching without charge (v.18)
 - Case: whatever you did for the least of these you did it unto Me" (Matt 25:40)
 - Paul gladly forsook his liberty & willingly gave up all his rights for the Gospel

II. To Win the Lost to Christ (9:19-23)

- 1) Through self denial & 2) self -control (9:19-23)
 - Primary reason for Paul not using his right: "that I might win more of them"
 - He was free from all men, but because of his love for all men: limit his rights
 - What once were legal restraints had now become love restraints
 - To the Jew became as one under the law, the Gentiles as one without the law