

A MISCONCEPTION THAT SKEWED EVANGELICALISM

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

The landscape of evangelicalism has been devastated; one cause is the _____ of 1 Cor. 9:19-23
In particular, a certain segment of evangelicalism has made the last half of verse _____ their battle cry

I. THE MISINTERPRETATION OF THIS PASSAGE

- A. The Misinterpretation: Many evangelicals believe that this passage positively instructs them to talk, dress, eat, drink, watch and listen like the _____ all so that they can gain a hearing from the _____
- B. The Problem
- 1) Once most evangelicals were interested in _____ —personal separation from the world
 - 2) Now many regard this attitude as passé, quaint; only knee-jerk _____ worry about it
- C. The Causes
- 1) In 1978 Joseph Aldrich authored _____ which introduced this view to many
 - 2) In 1995 Rick Warren's The Purpose Driven Church popularized this view with 1000s of _____
 - 3) The evangelical church is no longer the _____ ; it is acclimated to the culture in every way

II. THE KEYS TO PROPER INTERPRETATION

- A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

III. THE PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THIS PASSAGE

- A. The Context of the Entire Book: In 1 Corinthians Apostle Paul addresses _____ in this church
Paul is not actually talking about _____ in 1 Cor. 9; he addresses it in passing, incidentally
- B. The Historical Context
- 1) The Greeks/Romans believed the air was filled with _____ who could invade men through food
 - 2) Demons could be cleansed from food if it was _____ to one of their many gods before eating
 - 3) Priests received part of these sacrifices as payment; they sold what they did not eat in the _____
 - 4) This meat was prized and ended up being served at special occasions like _____ and to guests
 - 5) Some sensitive Christians refused to eat this meat because of the pull of former lives or _____
 - 6) Other Christians were not bothered by pagan deities that did not really _____ or evil spirits in food
- C. The Chapter Context: 1 Corinthians 8-10
- 1) In 1 Co.8 Paul confirms that pagan gods do not exist, but we must not cause others to _____
 - 2) Paul says that he is willing to give up his _____ for the sake of other Christians—the focus of 1 Co.9
 - 3) In the first half of 1 Co.9 Paul says he has the right to take a wife and the right to _____ support
 - 4) 1 Co.9:15-18: it is Paul's policy not to use these _____ so that he does not "charge" for the gospel
 - 5) 1 Co. 9:19-23 is not about our right (liberty) to become more like the world, but giving up our _____
 - 6) 1 Co.9:24-27 is an illustration from the _____ : in ancient times competitors had to spend at least 10 months in a rigorous training regimen—successful gospel ministry entails denial of our rights
 - 7) 1 Co.10 teaches the principle of _____ : by baptism and communion we identify with Christ
By eating meat offered to idols we can identify with the _____ behind these idols & provoke God