

First

# CORINTHIANS

CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER

EAST ELEVATION



# Forfeiting Our Rights

## John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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**To encourage us to live that way, Paul uses himself as an example of forfeiting personal freedoms and rights.**

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  - Seen Jesus
  - **Brought gospel to Corinthians**

# 1 Corinthians 9:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> 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.

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  - **...to be paid for promoting the gospel**

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- **Shepherds**

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<sup>3</sup> This is my defense to those who would examine me.  
<sup>4</sup> Do we not have the right to eat and drink? <sup>5</sup> 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? <sup>6</sup> Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? <sup>7</sup> 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?

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<sup>8</sup> Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> Does he not certainly speak 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. <sup>11</sup> If we have sown spiritual things

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among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? <sup>12</sup> If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

All we Pastors at RCC are grateful  
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have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? <sup>12</sup> If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

**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.

# What's the obstacle?

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**The possible consideration that Paul is promoting the gospel for his own financial gain.**

**Back to Paul has the right to be paid -**

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**Jesus commands it!**

# 1 Corinthians 9:12b-14

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. <sup>13</sup> Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? <sup>14</sup> In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

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  - **Paul always considers others first**

# 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

<sup>15</sup> But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. <sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup> What then is

# 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.<sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.<sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the

# 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.  
<sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

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- We have as our highest objective always promoting the gospel.
- We are always looking to identify obstacles to our promoting the gospel.
- **We will happily forfeit the rights we have in Christ for the sake of our brothers and sisters.**