

Denying Self
1 Corinthians 9:1-18

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I. Paul's status as an Apostle. 1 Corinthians 9:1-2

Paul is explaining how he laid down his _____ as an Apostle so he asks the Corinthians to let go of their rights to eat meat sacrificed to idols and exercise love ahead of liberties.

- The fruit that was produced from the different churches Paul was over was enough _____ to show he was indeed an Apostle.

"Paul is saying, "If I am an apostle, and I have this knowledge that is greater than yours" (as he will say in the next 20 verses), "nevertheless I do not _____ all my rights." (Ray Stedman)

II. Paul's rights as an Apostle. 1 Corinthians 9:3-6

But Paul's example shows that all aspects of human life should be a seamless witness. There is little room to draw _____ between "professional ministry" and other forms of witness.

- Some Apostles were married and _____ by the church.

III. The Old Testament is the example. 1 Corinthians 9:7-12

"The first believers found guidance in the spiritual principles of the law, even though they had been _____ from obeying the commandments of the law." (Warren Wiersbe)

- Paul denied himself to prevent the Gospel from being _____.

IV. Paul would not use the privilege. 1 Corinthians 9:13-18

"He did not just have "preacher's itch." He was called to preach and felt _____ to fulfill that call." (Guzik)

V. Practical Application.

Jesus tells us to deny ourselves, to subject our own desires and will to God's will; when we deny the flesh, the Lord will grant us Abundant Life as we enjoy _____ fellowship with Him.

Matthew 16:24-27...

1. We deny ourselves so we can _____ Christ.
2. Self denial goes hand-in-hand with taking up our cross.
3. Self denial allows us to find _____ life.
4. Self denial helps _____ our soul.
5. Self denial brings eternal _____ in heaven.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. What rights do we have as humans? What happens when someone violates one of your rights? (Wiersbe)
2. What is Paul's defense of his financial policy? (Wiersbe)
3. What special relationship does Paul have with the Corinthians? (Wiersbe)
4. Read **1 Corinthians 9:1-2**. What right did Paul have for asking these Christians to give up their Christian liberties? What proof did Paul give for calling himself an Apostle?
Acts 1:21-22, Acts 9:10-19
5. We learned in the sermon, "The words **defense** and **examine** in **verse 3**, are both legal words that were used in a court of law in Rome." Discuss the rhetorical questions Paul gives within **1 Corinthians 9:3-6**, regarding his right to be financially cared for by this church.
6. How did Paul support himself?
Deuteronomy 25:4, Acts 18:1-3, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9, 2 Corinthians 11:8
7. Read **Matthew 16:24-27** and discuss the practical applications of the sermon.