

## Christian Liberty (part 2)

When we are told that we have liberty, it does mean that we are free. We also use our liberty to serve Christ, to not destroy our testimony.

Paul speaks of being an apostle. **(Someone who was laying the foundation for the church and had seen the resurrected Christ.)**

The way that we live our lives is not by some legalistic set of rules, but to glorify God. We certainly are free not to, but how does that affect our testimony, and most of all *how does it affect our relationship with Christ?*

For example, many use their freedom as a human being to do stupid things, but how does that affect their relationships with others, a spouse, and with God?

People seem to have different expectations for preachers, yet not for themselves. People at work have different expectations for you as a Christian. **(We are human beings too, we just use our liberty to honor Christ, and to walk with Him. So, we live accordingly.)**

Frankly, we have a calling, and we are to live it. (And it only happens when we are walking with God!)

1 Corinthians 9:1–4 (ESV)

**9** 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.

<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?

### 1. ***The liberty to serve God requires effort-*** (Many think that salvation is it)

1 Corinthians 9:7–12 (ESV)

<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?

<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 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.

a.) A soldier must eat (Necessary) So we should get paid.

b.) And of course, you have to work!

c.) **Serving God is our ultimate responsibility.!**

d.) For a minister, it shocks some that they are paid. (Yet, they have families, and they have interests, and they work!)

e.) Also, churches use electric, gas, water, and need maintenance. (Especially older ones!)

Ultimately, God is in charge, and we live in the material world and yet we live in the kingdom of God as a Christian. God blesses both. (This is how we see our liberty.)

f.) Is it wrong that a 'called out' person live as any other laborer? (Paul is saying it should be expected. And, more than any other, gets questioned.)

2. **The gospel is our ultimate purpose-** (Yes we eat, and we need housing, and our real purpose in liberty is to reach the world for Christ) We never stop being human, but we are spiritually alive humans once saved.)

1 Corinthians 9:16–17 (ESV)

<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.

a.) There was really no other option for Paul (What about us?)

b.) It is a stewardship. (He worked for the Lord and wanted to be responsible with the Lord's gospel.)

c.) Really, where the ministers get questioned for their material need, what about the laborer that ignores the spiritual? (Not examined the same way, yet it is necessary.)

1 Corinthians 9:19 (ESV)

<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.

d.) Free and yet serving God as a choice. (It is something that should work inside of us all.)

1 Corinthians 9:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

- **There are two worlds to be attended to in the Christian realm.**

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- Many will question motives, effort, but God's eyes are on us, and the prize is the glory of God.
- We work for physical needs, but the spiritual will last.
- **Paul used his liberty to glorify God by reaching the lost, not for things that would not last.**