



Written for our benefit

1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Verses 1-14

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you, because you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those who examine me is this: Don't we have the right to eat and drink? Don't we have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife like the other apostles, the Lord's brothers, and Cephas? Or do only Barnabas and I have no right to refrain from working?

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not drink the milk from the flock?

Verses 1-14

Am I saying this from a human perspective? Doesn't the law also say the same thing? For it is written in the law of Moses, Do not muzzle an ox while it treads out grain. Is God really concerned about oxen? Isn't he really saying it for our sake? Yes, this is written for our sake, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes should thresh in hope of sharing the crop.

If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you? If others have this right to receive benefits from you, don't we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right; instead, we endure everything so that we will not hinder the gospel of Christ.

Don't you know that those who perform the temple services eat the food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the offerings of the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should earn their living by the gospel.

The big idea: Paul has rights

- To eat and drink
- To have a wife
- To support as a minister
- To be free

Apostleship

1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you, because you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Apostleship

- He is free
- He is an apostle
- He was called
- He saw the Lord
- The Christians in Corinth are his apostolic seal



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Pay attention to the apostles

(And don't be distracted by those who aren't)

Support for those who preach the Gospel

If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you? If others have this right to receive benefits from you, don't we even more?

...Don't you know that those who perform the temple services eat the food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the offerings of the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should earn their living by the gospel.

Ministerial support

- ▶ The support should match the level of labor (“...don’t we even more?”)
- ▶ The support should be thoughtfully received (“we will not hinder the Gospel of Christ”)
- ▶ The support makes is for the common cause, not the pet project

Take hope in faithful labor

And reward others' labor

How Paul studies the Bible

1 Corinthians 9:8-10, 13-14 (CSB)

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How does Paul study the Bible?

The OT is given for our sake

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graph TD; A[The OT is given for our sake] --> B[OT law point to principles that teach us about God]; B --> C[Principles must be adapted in application];
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OT law point to principles that teach us about God

Principles must be adapted in application

The big idea: Paul has rights

- ▶ He talks about what an apostle is, to show he has apostolic privileges
- ▶ He talks about ministerial support, to show that he “deserves” it.
- ▶ He talks about OT teachings to support his claim for support

Paul has rights.

What about your freedom?

- ▶ We are called to confidence in Christ –
 - ▶ No doubting!
- ▶ We are called to love and trust our brothers –
 - ▶ No spying!