

1st Corinthians Chapter 9

Apr 13, 2026

Chapter 9. Paul sounds like a modern day commercial where the product is being advertised as the best of all other like products. He is stating that he is free to do as he pleases in God, but he has found a way that is above doing for himself in God rather doing the best for others for the sake of God. Paul is saying that he is in this soul winning business with God. He is more than a servant, but an active associate as one that has a stake in the company.

Verses 1-6: I am free. I am an Apostle. I can do as any of the other Apostle does. But I chose to take an unselfish route in hope to gain the attention, approval, acceptance and Brotherly Union in Christ Jesus of those I minister to.

Verses 7-12a: Applying simply natural reason, Paul states his case as if to say; I could charge what I want for my services to you and demand you pay my price according to your ability to pay. But I have not done that. In fact, I chose to provide the service to you for free. Other Apostles have may not done so. And they wouldn't be wrong, but they wouldn't be the best. Yet, I have a right to expect some fruit from the harvest of my planting. So, if others have a right of support from you, shouldn't we (Includes Barnabus) have it even more so?

Verses 12b-18: Yet instead of asking you to do what is right toward us, we have chosen to work side jobs to support our financial needs in order to be able to minister to you without cost. But there were many in the Church at Corinth that were 2nd generation from Paul. And they felt that God's ministry was to be free as a mandate from God. These had questioned Paul's teachings and refused to conform. No different that kids in your home believe that all they receive from parents is supposed to be free. So, at this point Paul is supplying justification for his demands upon them.

Verse 19-23: Paul states that he becomes like many in hope of gaining a few. But this does not mean he partakes of anyone's sins. As a Jew I become a Jew means; **separation without isolation.** As Jesus sat with sinners and never sinned with them so Paul walks with people, in their culture, in their language, and on their level to win a rapport that can garner a friendship and hopefully fellowship in Christ.

Verses 24-27: The true prize is not earthly compensation, but Heavenly elevation. An athlete does gain a personal reward of health in getting in shape. But in athletic competition, all the athletes on the field are in shape. But hopefully, their reason for being on the field is to win the game. So is our hope of Glory. Yet we also know if God has called and assigned us to a work, ours is to answer and do our very best to answer the call and complete the work. Anything less is unacceptable. There is a difference between rightful compensation and the 'winning prize.' All the athletes on the field are compensated with salary and benefits. But only the winner gets the prize. Therefore, press forward for the "Prize" of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus.