

1Corinthians – Week 33

I. Review (Chap. 9:1-18)

A. In chapter 9, Paul uses himself as an example of one who waives his freedoms for the good of others.

- i. Am I not free? Don't I have the same freedom as every person in Christ has?
- ii. Am I not an apostle? Don't I have the right to get financial support like the other apostles?
- iii. Paul explains his right to financial support using:
 1. Human affairs (military, agriculture and shepherding)
 2. Old Testament authority (Deut. 25:4)
 3. The Lord Jesus (He commanded it).
- iv. Paul explains why he refused financial support from the Corinthians:
 1. He did not want any obstacle in the way of the gospel (vs. 12).
 2. He wanted to boast in the fact that he presented the gospel free of charge to the Corinthians.

II. Continuation

A. Paul gives his reason why he did not exercise his freedom in Christ

- i. It is important to understand that Paul never compromised the truth of the Scriptures.
- ii. Paul did not compromise the truth as many do today in order to gain members.
 1. In Galatians 1:10, Paul made it clear that we are not to seek the approval of men, but rather the approval of Christ!
 2. In 2Timothy 4:3-4, Paul warned about false teachers who would turn from sound doctrine and teach that which pleases the crowd.
- iii. Paul merely submitted himself to amoral customs and habits of the people with whom he worked with in order that he might gain a ready ear for the gospel.
 1. Amoral has to do with matters of moral indifference.

B. 1Cor. 9:19 (ESV), "*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them*"

- i. Although Paul had rights as a disciple, he chose to be a slave of men!
 1. Why did Paul relinquish his freedom? To win people to Christ!
 - a. Souls are won through service.
 2. Paul imitated the Lord, who said, "*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" (Mark 10:45).

C. 1Cor. 9:20 (ESV), "*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.*"

- i. It was Paul's custom to follow Jewish ways when he was in the company of Jews.
- ii. He did so to make them receptive to him and his message.
 1. An illustration of this is found in Acts 16:3, where Paul had Timothy circumcised because of the Jews he was trying to reach.
 2. Another illustration of this is found in Acts 21:20-26.
 - a. Evil-minded Jews spread rumors that Paul was teaching Jews to forsake Moses' teachings.
 - b. But Paul never did such a thing:
 - i. Paul himself submitted himself to the Nazarite vow (Num. 6):
 1. Do not cut your hair until the time of the vow is over.
 2. Do not approach a dead body, even if it is your relative.
 3. Do not eat or drink grape products.
- iii. Paul knew his salvation was not based on the Law of Moses, but on the grace of Christ.
- iv. However, Paul submitted himself to the customs of the Jews in order to win Jews.
 1. 1Cor. 8:13 would imply that Paul abstained from pork in the company Jews.

- D. 1Cor. 9:21 (ESV), “*To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.*”**
- i. To those outside the law refers to Gentiles.**
 - ii. When Paul was with Gentiles he behaved as a Gentile. This would have involved eating what they did, among other amoral things.**
 - iii. Of course, we are to understand that Paul did not engage in sinful practices with the Gentiles like idol worship, etc.**
 - iv. FYI: This passage shows that the New Testament does not teach antinomianism.**
 - 1. Antinomianism is the belief that those under grace are free from obedience to God’s law.**
 - 2. The Law of God:**
 - a. In Judaism: it is the Law of Moses.**
 - b. In Christianity: it is the Law of Christ (the New Testament).**
 - 3. Paul makes it clear that Christians are under the law of Christ.**
- E. 1Cor. 9:22-23 (ESV), “*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. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*”**
- i. The weak represents those who were sensitive about matters that were not of great importance:**
 - 1. Paul would be a vegetarian if necessary rather than offend a weak conscience and create an obstacle for the gospel.**
 - 2. Paul abstained from meats offered up to idols so as to not offend the weak. (cf. 1Cor. 8:13).**
 - ii. Paul did everything amoral with a view to bringing people to the Savior**
- F. Everything in Paul's life revolved around the gospel.**
- i. He deeply desired for people to share the blessings of the gospel with him:**
 - 1. What are those blessings? Here are some...**
 - a. Salvation (rescued from eternal hell) – John 3:16; Rom. 8:1**
 - b. To live in the home of the righteous (new heaven & earth) -2Peter 3:13**
 - c. Living life with a purpose – Romans 8:29; Ephesians 2:10**
- G. Paul encourages his readers to imitate him (1Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17)**
- i. Becoming all things to all people is not just what the apostles did. It’s what all disciples are called to do.**
 - ii. Our Challenge: Live your life as servants of people, with the view of winning them to Christ.**
 - iii. Practical Application: Ask the men in class to give some examples on how one can become all things to all people.**
 - 1. Here are some examples:**
 - a. Joining a community work; taking a co-worker out to lunch (suggestion: male-male; female-female to avoid misperception; inviting unbelievers to dinner); doing amoral things that the unbeliever enjoys (golfing; fishing; singing; sight-seeing, etc.); being a friend to the unbeliever (call them; see how they are doing, etc.); visiting them when they are sick; comforting them when they are hurting, etc.**
 - b. In doing all this, speak of the gospel. Offer personal Bible studies to them. Remember: “*Friendship evangelism*” is not “*friendship evangelism*” without evangelism!**