

## Eye on the Prize 1 Corinthians 9

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### **Example #1: JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A RIGHT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO EXERCISE THAT RIGHT.**

*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>hThis is my defense to those who would examine me. <sup>4</sup>Do we not have the right to eat and drink? . . . <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 . . .*  
1 Corinthians 9:1-4a, 11-12 (English Standard Version)

### **Example #2: WHEN GOD CALLS ME TO SERVE, THE CALL IS TO GIVE FREELY, WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF RETURN.**

*Yet I have never used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that I want to start now. In fact, I would rather die than lose my right to boast about preaching without charge. <sup>16</sup>Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News! <sup>17</sup>If I were doing this on my own initiative, I would deserve payment. But I have no choice, for God has given me this sacred trust. <sup>18</sup>What then is my pay? It is the opportunity to preach the Good News without charging anyone. That's why I never demand my rights when I preach the Good News.*  
1 Corinthians 9:15-18 (New Living Translation)

**Example #3: I MAKE MYSELF A SERVANT BY ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE I'M SERVING.**

*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*  
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (ESV)

**Example #4: I LIVE LIFE WITH GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES IN MIND.**

*Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup>All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup>So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup>I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.* 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

**The Take-Home Truth:**