

LOVE IS

1 & 2 Corinthians

Week 9: 1 Corinthians 9

5 Main Issues Addressed In 1 Corinthians

- 1 - Divisions in the church - Chapters 1:10-4:21
- 2 - Immorality in the church - Chapters 5:1-7:40
- 3 - Issues around idolatry - Chapters 8:1-10:17

1 Corinthians 8 - Take care that what is permissible for you doesn't become a trap for others. Your responsibility to a younger Christian outweighs your freedom to indulge.

What would you do if you were completely free?

1 Corinthians 9:1-7

- Behind the questions - I could be eating at the pagan temple, too, but I am not, and you should follow my example.
- When it comes to rights, Paul has the right to eat, to marry, to make money, just as a soldier, a planter, or a shepherd benefit from their work.

1 Corinthians 9:8-14

- Paul has a right to benefit from the Corinthians
- If even the ox benefits from its work, how much more Paul?
- But...instead of insisting on rights, Paul has endured (sacrificed) much so that he would not be seen as profiting from preaching
- Paul is content to share, not profit, from his efforts

1 Corinthians 9:15-18

- Paul “would rather die” than be a charity case. He is proud to work hard for the Gospel.
- Sharing the Gospel is a natural response to new birth.
- His reward is a free conscience - not so with those who eat in the pagan temple.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- I have set my rights aside to become a servant to all.
- Regarding Jews, law-abiders, outsiders, and insiders - I want to come alongside any of them to share the Gospel.
- The “knowledge” of the Corinthians displays a view of grace that hasn’t resulted in sacrificial living - a consistent flaw in the Corinthian church

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- Life is a race - run in such a way as to receive the prize!
- If even an athlete practices self-control, how much more must we - in a world of distractions?
- New birth grants us freedom from living randomly, indulgently, and impulsively. The new birth life should echo new birth preaching: freedom from chains that bind!

For us:

- For many of us, food sacrificed to idols isn’t the problem, but other areas of life could cause a brother or sister to stumble?
- We are all growing into Christ’s likeness. How does this shape Paul’s thinking about how we should live?
- Paul wants to see the Corinthians live out a life of “love that builds up.” Who can you build up over the next few days?
- Make a plan to build up a few people weekly.