

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"For The Sake Of The Gospel" (I Corinthians 9)

Danny Hodges NT3409

Intro:

1. Read the text.

2. Last week we looked at our responsibility regarding Christian freedom as it applies to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The weaker brother is not to condemn the stronger brother in what he partakes of (in freedom), and the stronger brother is not to look down on the weaker brother for his choice not to partake (Rom. 14). While chapter eight dealt with issues of freedom for the sake of our relationship to one another as Christians, chapter nine will deal with his Christian freedom as it relates to unbelievers. Paul specifically mentions three things he did for the sake of the gospel, and all three are connected to the issue of Christian freedom

I. PAUL: FORFEITING MY RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL (vv. 1-19).

A. The Rights Paul Had

* "Free" = 1658. eleutheros, el-yoo'-ther-os; prob. from the alt. of G2064; unrestrained (to go at pleasure), i.e. (as a citizen) not a slave (whether freeborn or manumitted), or (gen.) exempt (from obligation or liability):--free (man, woman), at liberty.

* Isn't it amazing that God gives us the right to make our own decisions free will

B. The Sacrifice He Made

* II Timothy 2: 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

* See II Cor. 11:23-29

* Rom. 9: 3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,

4 the people of Israel

C. Everyone Who Has Believed The Gospel Has Given Up Some Rights.

* Matthew left his tax collector job (and it was lucrative!), Peter James and John left their family fishing business,

* Luke 9: 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

* Ray and Lana Franklin; Jim and Jan Larson; David Marconi and the \$ he could be making in the secular field as an IT guy

* Jesus certainly gave up his rights for the sake of the gospel! (Phil.2:6)

II. PAUL: CHAMELEON FOR CHRIST (vv.19-23)

A. Adjusting To Your Audience Without Compromising Holiness

* Unless you were a religious hypocrite, you would have felt very comfortable around Jesus. He is love and acceptance in the flesh, but he is also truth

* Woman at the well was surprised that Jesus would speak to her, but even though He met her "on her level, He did not compromise truth.

* If not making a big deal about the wine at the table of my host will open a door for me to share the gospel with him, then I will not make a big deal about the wine If I'm out for breakfast with a kosher person, I would not order bacon; if with a vegetarian, I'll have a salad missionary women in certain countries wearing coverings short pants taboo in certain countries wearing a head covering at The Western Wall

B. Sharing In The Blessings of The Gospel (v.23)

1. A powerful message

- Rom.1: 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2. A passionate person

- Jer.31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love

- II Tim.2: 8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,
9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

- Mark 8: 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

- See Phil.3:7-10 (The Rocky of his world)

- I Cor.1: 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- Col.1: 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

- I John 1:1-3

3. A privileged family

- See Mark 10: 17-29

- Eph.1: 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints

- Romans 8: 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- I Cor.3: 21 So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours,

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours,

III. PAUL: PRIZE FIGHTER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL (vv.24-27).

* It is essential that I discipline my body, because self-control is not a part of my Christian life, I lose my witness for the gospel.

* Peter when he chose not to confess Christ Lot when he traded in his tent life for a home in Sodom King David when he failed with Bathsheeba

* David wasn't writing any worship songs during this time; wasn't actively involved in worship with the people of God; His sin was always nagging at him (Psalm 51:3); Lost the joy of his salvation (Psalm 51:12) and he was no longer a witness for Christ (Psalm 51:11-13, note v.13).

CONCLUSION

- * What rights do I need to give up for the sake of the gospel?
 - a. To become a Christian
 - b. To be a witness

* Am I the kind of Christian that can be a chameleon for the sake of the gospel?

* Am I disciplining my body for the sake of the gospel?

* Prov.11: 30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

* Daniel 12: 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.