

The Story so far...

As we have learned, the Christians in Corinth were living too much like the culture around them, and forgetting their identity as God’s holy people. In response, Paul has been reminding them of their identity and showing them the right way to live which reflects being children of God. In this part of the letter, Paul will talk about the rights and motivation of a gospel worker.

Icebreaker

What do you think of full-time gospel workers who get their salary from the donations of other Christians? Positive or negative?

If you could make all people believe in something, what is one idea or way of life that you want everyone to believe in? (e.g ‘I want everyone to believe it’s important to protect the environment’)

Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Are there any difficult words?

Who does Paul claim to be? What is his relationship with the Corinthian church? (v.1-2)

What are some attacks coming from those who are judging Paul? (v.3-6)

Fill in the table according to the examples that Paul gave. Do you agree with Paul that these characters should receive a reward for their work?

Verse	Character	Reward
v.7		
v.7		
v.7		
v.9		
v.10		
v.10		
v.13		

Why did Paul not use his right to receive material reward for the gospel work that he does? (v.12, 15-17)

By preaching voluntarily, what reward is Paul reaching for? (v.17-18)

If these characters deserve a reward for their work, do those who do gospel work (sow spiritual seed) deserve to be supported financially? Why or why not? (v.11-12, 14)

As a Christian, are you giving financially to support the work of the gospel (ie. church, missionaries)? If yes, how? If not, why not?

- What is hard about giving financially towards gospel work?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Are there any difficult words?

Even though Paul is free, how does he live for the sake of the gospel? (v.19-22)

What is Paul’s goal in living like this? (v.22-23)

What is Paul’s point in comparing himself (gospel worker) to an athlete? (v.24-27)

Apostle: Eyewitness of Jesus, sent by him with his authority.
Seal: A stamp attached to a document as a guarantee of authenticity or authority.
Vineyard: A plantation of grapevines, typically producing grapes used in winemaking.
Muzzle: A guard placed over an animal’s mouth to stop it from biting or eating.
Treading out the grain: Press down or crush with the feet to separate the grain from the shell.
Thresh: Separate grain from corn or other crops, can be done by hand or machine.
Deprive: Prevent (a person or place) from having or using something.
Woe: Great sorrow or distress.

Although we may not be full-time gospel workers like Paul, how should we live for the sake of the gospel?

- Are there some things in your life or bad habits or worries that are stopping you from striving your hardest for the gospel?

- What are some practical steps you can take to live for the sake of the gospel? Which non-Christians at FOCUS can you share the gospel with? (If you have a spiritual companion, share it with them so that you guys can keep each other accountable!)

Talk Notes

The rights of a gospel worker

Are you supporting the work of the Church?

Paul gives up his rights for the sake of the gospel

Give up your rights so that you might save some

What motivates Paul and Christians to deny their rights?

You are in danger because of your broken relationship with Jesus!

We love you because God first loved us



The Rights and Motivation of a Gospel Worker

1 Corinthians 9