

# **AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS**

*A Study of 1 Corinthians*

## **WHEN LIBERTY MEETS LOVE**

1 Corinthians 9:1-23      Jeff Schreve

*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 9:18 NLT*

### **When your liberty meets love, which one wins?**

#### **1. You and I have a right to Christian liberties.**

*My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we not have a **right** to eat and drink? Do we not have a **right** to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or do only Barnabas and I not have a **right** to refrain from working? 1 Corinthians 9:3-6*

#### **A. Preachers have a right to be paid.**

##### **1. Common sense tells us this.**

*Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?  
1 Corinthians 9:7*

##### **2. God's Word tells us this.**

*For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 1 Corinthians 9:9*

*So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14*

#### **B. Preachers have a right to be paid well.**

*Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17*

## 2. You and I must weigh our rights against the gospel.

*If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. 1 Corinthians 9:12*

A. Will this *right* hinder the furtherance of the gospel?

B. Are there *rights* you need to lay aside because of love?

*What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:18*

C. Do you really desire to see people come to Christ?

*For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; **I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. And I do all things for the sake of the gospel,** that I may become a fellow partaker of it. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*

Will you pray, “O God, make my heart like yours”?