

**Together: study of 1 Corinthians**  
**“What Am I Willing to Sacrifice for the Gospel?”**

**1 Corinthians 9:1-27**  
**September 9, 2018 / Pastor Shawn**

<sup>1</sup> Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 9:1-2

**1. Am I willing to sacrifice my rights for the Gospel?**

<sup>3</sup> This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. <sup>4</sup> Don't we have the right to food and drink? <sup>5</sup> Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? <sup>6</sup> Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

<sup>11</sup> If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? <sup>12</sup> If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. <sup>15</sup> But I have not used any of these rights. . . . <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:3-18

**2. Am I will to sacrifice my freedoms for the Gospel?**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>22</sup> . . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means, I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**WHEN “BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE”**

**(a) REJECT SIN AND ANYTHING CONTRARY WITH GOD'S CHARACTER.**

**(b) Support ANYTHING CONGRUENT WITH GOD'S CHARACTER.**

**(c) REDEEM EVERYTHING ELSE FOR THE GOSPEL.**

**3. Am I willing to sacrifice my desires for the Gospel?**

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race, all the runners run but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

**♦ Egkrateuomai (*en-krä-tyü'-o-mī*): to be temperate; self-controlled; self-disciplined**

<sup>26</sup> Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly. I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I've preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

**Questions for Discussions**

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday's message?
2. How important is the Gospel to you? What do your choices reveal about the importance of the Gospel in your life?
3. What did Paul give up to preach the Gospel? Why did he do that?
4. What does it mean to be a “slave to all people”? What kind of language could we use today to communicate the same point?
5. Paul wasn't as concerned about the method of evangelism as he was with the message. How can we apply this thinking to our evangelism today?
6. If we put into practice what Paul outlined in 1 Corinthians 9, how would we be like athletes in training?
7. What might it look like for you if you “became all things to all people”? What would need to change in your life to prioritize the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
8. For whom are you praying and working “to win” to Jesus? Share with your Group. Spend time praying together for this person.