

Rights and the Right Goal

I. I Have the Right (1-14)

A right of the gospel minister can become a hinderance to the gospel ministry!

II. My Right, Responsibility, & Reward (15-23)

Winning another to Christ is more important than exercising a right or freedom.

III. The Requirement for My Reward (24-27)

Pursuit of the goal demands willing sacrifice.

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-7. What rights does Paul tell his readers he should have? Why are these his rights?

2. What right does Paul explain and use Scripture to support in 1 Cor. 9:8-14?

Paul pointed out that he did not use this right. Why didn't he?

Can you give an example of someone not exercising their right that helped advance the gospel message?

Can you give an example of exercising a right that hindered the gospel?

3. Why did Paul say he was not asking to be paid for his ministry in verses 15-18?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What was Paul's goal in his ministry? How did he pursue it?

Can you give a today example of pursuing the same goal in a similar way?

Is this a goal of yours? Why or why not?

5. In verses 24-27 Paul illustrates what it takes to pursue this goal. It's easier to be satisfied with not being a hindrance, than it is to also strive to help the message go forth. How are you, or could you better be, advancing the gospel?

Helping the gospel message go forth and change lives should be the goal for every believer. It should satisfy (John 4:32) and not burden (1 John 5:3) us. How can you better make this ministry your goal, and though hard, a joy?