

1 Corinthians 9:1-14
"It's Time to be Holy"

"Leadership is not just about running after your dreams; it's about kneeling down and helping others to pursue theirs. You don't just cast vision. You set the stage for them to envision their visions. You're more interested in building up than moving up. You equip, enable, empower." (Tabletalk magazine)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 9:1-2, "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord." Paul asks four questions that challenge those who questioned his being an apostle.

1. Paul was free to avail himself of the same privileges as the other apostles:

2. Paul had no doubts:

3. Paul met the qualifications of being an apostle:

4. Paul offers the success of his ministry:

5. Paul rebukes the Corinthian church for even:

1 Corinthians 9:3-6, "This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?" Paul asks six questions that address his claim to the right of being compensated for his work as an apostle.

1. As an apostle, Paul should have been:

2. As an apostle, if Paul had been married, he should have been:

3. As an apostle, Paul had every right to not have to:

4. As an apostle, Paul should have been:

5. As an apostle, Paul should get to:

6. As an apostle, Paul should be:

7. We need to understand that ministers should be:

1 Corinthians 9:8-12, "Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.' Is it for oxen that God is concerned?¹⁰ Does He not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ."

1. Paul always provides:

2. Paul had provided them with eternal treasures:

3. Paul would rather provide for himself than do anything:

1 Corinthians 9:13-14, "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

1. Paul reminds them that making provision:

2. Paul reminds them that those who do not see to it:

Conclusion: