

Rights or Wrongs

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 9:1-23.

B. The question asks what limits a believer has on his rights.

II. The believer has no right to limit the growth of others with their freedom.

III. Paul defends his apostleship as an illustration of forsaking his rights.

A. His words were from Jesus.

B. He taught the church at Corinth all that they knew.

C. He argued that he had certain rights to be supported as a minister.

1. They had the right to food.

2. They had the right to be married and to have their family supported.

3. They had a right to be supported so that they did not have to work.

4. Custom and the Law of Moses support this.

D. Paul had the right, but he avoided using it to avoid being an obstacle to Christ.

E. The ministry comes before the support.

1. The demonstration of a ministry is the basis for the raising of support.

2. There is a need to demonstrate the ability to minister.

F. The greatest right one has is the right to give up one's rights.

1. Paul had no choice about preaching the gospel--he had a sense of duty whether he liked it or not.

2. What motivated Paul was the sheer delight it gave him to bless and enrich another without taking a penny in return.

3. A Christian approach ought to be characterized by meeting a person wherever they are at.

4. It is better to give than to receive.

Application questions:

1. Under what circumstance should a minister refuse financial support from those to whom he is ministering?

2. Why do ministers have the right to be supported by their congregations?

3. What are other practical cases where a believer should consider giving up his right in order to advance the gospel among a group of people? Explain.
