

Paul's Perspective

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Corinthians 9.

B. We have great difficulties with perspective and balance.

II. I have my rights, but I do not insist on them.

A. Rights Paul did no insist on...

1. To recognition. We must like Jesus learn not to insist upon our rights.

2. To remuneration. Paul was not serving on the basis of what others owed him.

3. To relaxation.

III. I have my responsibilities, but I do not ignore them.

A. Paul insisted upon winning more souls.

B. Paul insisted upon being a part of others' spiritual growth.

C. Paul insisted on sharing what God wanted to share.

D. Paul had a responsibility of identification. Our objective, convictions and our message must be immovable.

E. Paul had a responsibility of adaptability. We must be conservative in our theology but be willing to update our practice.

F. Paul had a responsibility of dedication.

G. Paul had a responsibility of determination.

H. Paul had a responsibility of discipline.

Applications questions:

1. How do you think Paul's willingness not to insist on remuneration impacted his ministry?

2. Which of Paul's responsibilities do you think the church struggles to fulfill the most today? Explain.

3. How can you better identify with nonbelievers without compromising holiness? Explain.
