

# 1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

## Lesson #10



- I. **Who do you think I am?**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-7
  - b. Why does Paul change the subject abruptly from chapter 8? (vs 1)
  - c. What seems to be the issue that Paul wants to address? (vs 3)
  - d. A basic principle (vs 7) is the support of whom?
  
- II. **Apostles deserve support**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:8-14
  - b. Is it wrong for a church to support a worker? (vs 9)
    - i. See Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18
  - c. Is ministry about sowing seeds of faith but never seeing results? (vs 10)
  - d. Who are the “others” in verse 12?
  - e. What does God say about priests in the Old Testament?
    - i. See Deuteronomy 18:1; Numbers 18:8
  - f. How does verse 14 inform us about our current model for Church?
  
- III. **Free... to serve all for the Gospel**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-23
  - b. The argument to this point is about support, but Paul has never asked for it. Why not?
  - c. What does Paul do instead of receiving support from the churches he starts?
    - i. See 1 Thessalonians 2:5; 9, Acts 18:3
  - d. How does all this apply to eating meat sacrificed to idols? (chapters 8 & 10)
  - e. Verse 19 sums up Paul’s argument. How should we use our freedom?
  - f. Does “becoming like” those outside the Christian faith mean that we are giving up on our faith? (vss 19-23)
  - g. What other examples do we have of Paul opening the door for the Gospel by “being like” the group he ministers to?
    - i. See Acts 16:3; 17:22-34
  - h. God entrusted Paul to manage the Gospel (vs 17) which not only frees him, but also binds him to Christ. What becomes most important? (vs 23)
    - i. See 2 Timothy 2:10
  
- IV. **Play to win**
  - a. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- b. Olympic style games were common in this region. What does it take to compete at a high level?
- c. Explain the difference between worldly gain and eternal gain.
  - i. See Luke 12:33-34; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; Revelation 2:10b
- d. Is Paul saying we should do hard work to receive salvation? (vs 24)
- e. What value does self-discipline and focus have for us modern-day Christians?
- f. Why or how could Paul be concerned about his own salvation? (vs 27)
  - i. See James 4:4; 1 Peter 2:11
- g. In conclusion, our Christian freedom is best used for what?

V. **Next time...**

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-33