



Study 4 – 1 Corinthians 9:1-23
The Gospel and Christian Freedom

Getting Started:

What do you remember about last week's sermon?

What are some situations people might speak about their rights or freedoms today?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-23

1. Paul starts this section by asking a series of questions. What is the answer he seems to be assuming to each question?
 - a. Why do you think he's asking these questions?
 - i. How does this section naturally follow from the end of chapter 8?
 - ii. What do these questions establish about Paul's freedom and status as an Apostle?
2. Looking at verses 3-14, what rights does Paul have as an Apostle?
 - a. What specific entitlements did he have a right to as the Corinthian's Apostle?
3. Looking at verses 15-18, what does Paul do with his rights?
 - a. Why does he do this?
4. Looking at verses 19-23, how has the gospel changed Paul's understanding of who he is?
 - a. What is the dominant category that defines Paul's identity now?
 - b. How does this enable Paul to engage in multiple cultures without being bound to or defined by them?

- c. What is Paul's motivation to engage in different cultures?
 - i. How does this motivation shape the way he uses his freedom?

- 5. If you had to describe who you are to someone, which of these categories would you typically use:
 - a. Your nationality
 - b. The area/region you grew up (coastie, country, city, etc)
 - c. What you do for a living, or your qualifications
 - d. Your family
 - e. Your cultural fit (surfer, muso, swimmer, reader, gamer, car lover etc)
 - f. Your interests/hobbies
 - g. Your gifts/strengths
 - h. Your personality type
 - i. Any others?

- 6. In light of today's study, how important should these things be for us?

- 7. If we really knew the freedom of who are were in Christ, and if our hearts were full of the kind of love for people that God's is, how could we live differently?
 - a. What things could we let go of to see others won to Jesus?

 - b. What things could we get involved in to engage with more people with the gospel?

Pray

- 1. Pray in response to something you are challenged about in the passage
- 2. Pray for others in your group, or those you know who might find this a hard passage to think through
- 3. Pray for your Mission Partner

