

# Free to Do Gospel Work Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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**Key Truth:** The Church supports its vocational ministers so they can be free to do gospel work.

In the middle of his discussion on the right use of rights, Paul reasons that some in the Corinthian church may see him laying down his personal liberties not as a free choice but as an obligation. They may have believed that they're entitled to *free shepherding* from Paul and the others. Paul has decided that he's not going to take money from them for his personal needs. But that doesn't mean they're released of the obligation to support the ones God has called to gospel ministry.

## **DISCUSS**

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on being **Free to Do Gospel Work**.

## **DIG IN**

Do you agree from this passage that Paul exhorts the church to support its pastors financially? Why or why not?

### **1. The Rights of a Gospel Minister.**

In what ways does Paul base his assertions on either Divine Call (vv. 1-3), Natural Custom (vv. 4-7), or Scriptural Command (vv. 8-10)? Use Scripture references to back up your answers.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:9; 1 Timothy 5:17; and Galatians 6:6.

What words or phrases in these verses suggest the Apostle is talking about financial compensation?

### **2. Obligations of a Faithful Congregation.**

In what ways can the church sometimes err in neglecting the pastor's family?

Why is it important that the church supply the material needs of the pastor? In what ways can this be abused?

### **3. Characteristics of a Worthy Minister.**

In what ways can we rightly infer that Paul's mention of the soldier, the farmer, and the shepherd (v. 7) naturally implies faithfulness?

Why is it important that the pastor be both hardworking and gospel-focused? What would happen in the church if these are not true of the pastor?

## **DO**

What are some practical ways these truths can be both built up at FBC and extended beyond our walls?