

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE PASTOR

--1st CORINTHIANS 9:1-14--

INTRODUCTION:

Paul in the first 14 verses of this chapter defends his right to receive financial support from the church in Corinth. Then in the second half of the chapter he shows how he set that right aside to achieve a higher goal. He is not saying that setting this right aside is always proper, but for him it was proper at that time. He defends his right to financial support from the church through the use of five arguments that support his position. We will briefly look at each.

- I. PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP (1st Corinthians 9:1-6)
 - a. Paul's first argument was that he was an _____.
 - b. The Apostles were also given the ability to perform special signs and _____ to attest and confirm the message which they preached. (2nd Corinthians 12:12)
 - c. Because Paul was an apostle, he had the right to receive _____ from those to whom he ministered.
 - d. Paul had the right to _____ his full time to the ministry of the Word, he did not have to make tents.
- II. HUMAN LIFE (1st Corinthians 9:7)
 - a. Paul goes on in verse seven to show us that a workman deserves some _____ for his labor.
 - b. Paul's point was clear, the one who ministers for the Lord has the right to expect material benefits for his _____.
 - c. If this is true for the "_____" world, it should also be true for the one who labors to meet the spiritual needs of people.
- III. OLD TESTAMENT LAW (1st Corinthians 9:8-12)
 - a. Paul did not want his readers to think that his argument was according to _____ judgment only.
 - b. Paul quoted Deuteronomy 25:4 to prove his point, but what does not muzzling the _____ while he is treading out the grain have to do with Paul's position.

- c. Verse 11 clearly states the basic principle that Paul was trying to teach: if we receive _____ blessings, we should in turn share material blessings. (Romans 15:25-27)
- d. In verse 12 Paul implies that the Corinthian church had supplied the _____ of others who had come and ministered to them.

- IV. OLD TESTAMENT PRACTICE (1st Corinthians 9:13)
 - a. Paul turns back to the principle he is trying to teach concerning the _____ of ministers of the gospel. (Numbers 18:8-32 and Leviticus 6:14-7:36 and 27:6-33.)
 - b. The _____ that Paul is making is clear.
- V. THE TEACHING OF JESUS (1st Corinthians 9:14)
 - a. Paul had one last argument that supported his position, and this was the _____ argument of all.
 - b. Paul stated that the Lord Jesus directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their _____ from the gospel. (Luke 10:7; Matthew 10:10)
 - c. Since Jesus said that the laborer is worthy of his wages it a fundamental principle that the church must not _____. (Galatians 6:6)

CONCLUSION:

Paul certainly proves his point, that those who are ministers of the Gospel should not have to do some other work to support themselves and their families. Paul's five arguments proved conclusively that he had the right to expect the Corinthian church to support him in his ministry when he was with them ministering to them.

A year ago, I gave 3 messages on giving, and I said we are never told to tithe in the New Testament. If you desire to tithe 10% that is great place to start, but do not let that limit your giving. And if you are not giving, yet you are being spiritually fed here at the church, according to Paul's defense you should be contributing to the church. Your giving should be an act of worship, don't give begrudgingly, but do so with a cheerful heart in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord.