

I CORINTHIANS 8-10

I AM THIRD

The Right to Give Up the Right

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FIRST COLONY
Church of Christ

GATHER + GROW + GO

I AM THIRD

1. Paul had a right to be called an apostle.

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? ² Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

I AM THIRD

1. Paul had a right to be called an apostle.
2. Paul had a right to financial support for his work.

1 Corinthians 9:3-6

³ This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. ⁴ Don't we have the right to food and drink? ⁵ Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?

1 Corinthians 9:3-6

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⁶ Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

Seven Compensation Reasons

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- Soldiers

⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Vintners

*Who plants a vineyard and does not eat
its grapes?*

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Shepherds

*Who tends a flock and does not drink
the milk?*

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Scripture

1 Corinthians 9:8-10

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1 Corinthians 9:8-10

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⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us,

1 Corinthians 9:8-10

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doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Common Sense

¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? ¹² If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Old Testament Examples

13 Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

Seven Compensation Reasons

- Jesus

14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Pup Tent or Palace?

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- Fair Exchange
- Double Honor
- Wisdom



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Reasons to Leave

- Competing visions that dilute resources
- Impossible expectations
- Family wear & tear
- Sick systems

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3. Paul had a right to surrender his right.

2 Corinthians 8:11

I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.

2 Corinthians 8:12

12 But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:15-18

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¹⁵ But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. ¹⁶ For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am

2 Corinthians 8:15-18

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compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it

2 Corinthians 8:15-18

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free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:19

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

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4. Our rights should always be guided
by love.