

## GOSPEL of Grace FELLOWSHIP

### 1 Corinthians 9:6-14

Paul Subordinates Apostolic Rights Pt 2  
Working to Support Himself

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### More Rhetorical Questions

#### 1 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NASB)

Or do only Barnabas and I **not** have a right to refrain from working? Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

- The point: laborers are typically sustained by their labor

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### An Analogy From Scripture

#### 1 Corinthians 9:8-9 (NASB)

I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? For **it is written in the Law of Moses**, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He?

- The context in Deut. 24 & 25 is about proper treatment of humans
- The inclusion of the ox shows mercy for all

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### There Is to Be Benefit From Work

#### 1 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV)

Does he not **certainly** speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the **plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.**

- "Certainly" translates *panto\_s* which is an adverb (8 X in NT all by Luke or Paul)
- Here, work is done with the expectation of benefit and return

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### Sowing and Reaping Applied

#### 1 Corinthians 9:11 (NASB)

If we **sowed spiritual things** in you, **is it too much if we reap material things** from you?

- 'Sowed spiritual things' is stated as a first class conditional (as is the case)
- "Too much" includes the adjective *meGas*
- The problem was likely the hidden agenda of becoming indebted to a wealthy patron

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### Paul Puts the Gospel First

#### 1 Corinthians 9:12 (NASB)

If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but **we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.**

- 'Endure' can be translated 'put up with'
- The likely issue was status due to patronage and possible bad influence
- The elitists clung to 'rights' (harmfully so)

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## The Principle Still Stands

### 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (NASB)

Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? So also **the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.**

- See Matthew 10:10 & Luke 10:7

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## Implications and Applications

- We honor God when we honor those who faithfully preach the truth
- We must resist influence peddling since it always harms the gospel

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## Honor Elders Who Are Faithful

### 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (NASB)

The **elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor**, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

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## In Danger of Cunning Deception

### 2 Corinthians 11:1-3 (ESV)

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But **I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.**

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## A Different Gospel

### 2 Corinthians 11:4-5 (ESV)

For **if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or **if you accept a different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. Indeed, I consider that **I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles.**

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## A Church Made Bad Judgments

### 2 Corinthians 11:6-8 (ESV)

Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. Or **did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?** I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.

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