



1 Corinthians 9:1-5

Paul Subordinates Apostolic Rights

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Four Rhetorical Questions

1 Corinthians 9:1 (NASB)

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?
Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are
you not my work in the Lord?

- The answer to these questions is "Yes"
- Context: Paul will give up rights to protect his brother in Christ (8:13)
- Paul's willingness to give up rights in order to serve was likely used against him

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Paul's Preaching at Corinth Established the Church There

1 Corinthians 9:2 (NASB)

If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

- Acts 18:1-11 narrates the founding of the church at Corinth
- Seal is *sphragis* which signifies valid attestation of authenticity

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Paul Subordinates Valid Rights

1 Corinthians 9:3-4 (NASB)

My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we not have a right to eat and drink?

- 'Defense' and 'examine' are legal terms: *apologia* and *anakrino*
- Some critics evidently saw Paul's nonuse of certain rights as proof of weakness
- The elitists claimed and exercised rights which Paul did not

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Marriage Status & Rights

1 Corinthians 9:5 (NASB)

Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

- This text does not say all apostles were married but that they had a right to be
- The implication is that an accompanying wife would also be supported

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Implications and Applications

- The well-being of the Lord's flock is more important than rights
- The Lord Himself is the supreme example of subordinating His rights for the sake of the heirs of salvation

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Imitators of Selfless Service

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NASB)

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

1 Philippians 3:17 (NASB)

Brethren, **join in following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

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Jesus Subordinated Divine Rights

Philippians 2:5-7 (NASB)

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men.

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Jesus Laid Down His Life

Philippians 2:8-9 (NASB)

Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

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Jesus Will Be Fully Glorified

Philippians 2:10-11 (NASB)

so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**.

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