

Message Notes

"But, they'll never take our freedom!"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – Last Week

Knowledge AND what you do with that knowledge are BOTH crucial!

So, can I have a beer or not?!

THIS WEEK –

1. "I've got rights!"

a. "C,mon you're my peeps."

1 Cor. 9:1-2

b. "I am just like all the other Christians...kind of."

1 Cor. 9:3-7

c. The way God has ordered things. 1 Cor. 9:8-4

2. "I waive my rights!"

a. "It ain't about the money."

1 Cor. 9:15

b. What makes Paul tick?

1 Cor. 9:16-18

3. The flow of Paul's argument

4. What's this got to do with the price of cheese in China?

A guiding principle of 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Application – "So, what now?"

1. We'll never take your freedom!

2. But, will you _____ _ _____?

1 Corinthians 9:1-18

9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? 2 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. 3 This is my defense to those who would examine me. 4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? 8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? 10 Does he not speak entirely 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. 11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? 14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. 15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. 16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled on one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

John 10:17-18

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Philippians 3:8

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.



SEX AND THE CITY OF CORINTH



ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

CHURCH IN CRISIS

A STUDY OF PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ANCIENT CORINTH

PART 3 - 1 COR 7

RELATIONAL SIMPLEXITY!

SINGLENESSE DIVORCE SEX IN MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE RE-MARRIAGE



PART 4:
FREEDOM!

~ WHAT IS IT?

~ HOW DO WE GET
IT?

~ HOW DO WE
PRESERVE IT?

THREE PRINCIPLES FOR READING/STUDYING THE BIBLE

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SECOND RULE:

*If the historical and cultural particulars are the same,
then the passage reads to us as it did to them*

THIRD RULE:

*If the historical and cultural particulars are NOT the
same, we need to extract principles from the passage and
then apply them to our situation today*

A.K.A. - The Problem of Non-Comparable Particulars

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²The man who thinks he has arrived at knowledge, he does not yet know as he ought to know; ³but the man who loves, this one truly knows.

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“True gnosis (i.e. knowledge) consists not in the accumulation of so much data, nor even in the correctness of one’s theology, but in the fact that one has learned to live in love toward all.”

~Gordon Fee

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⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.

⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. ⁷But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

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⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. ⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹²When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

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DEFINITE MAYBE!

THIS WEEK!

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What makes Paul tick?

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16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! **17** For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. **18** What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

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 - Preaching the FREE gospel FREE of CHARGE = Reward!*

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“Love, that is, care for a brother,
determines Christian ethical life,
not ‘freedom.’”

~Gordon Fee

Three “Haunting” Words

Behind Palace Walls



Behind Palace Walls

Christ + exercising of freedom = “good” life



Behind Palace Walls

Christ + exercising of freedom = “good” life

Christ + not exercising freedom = stupidity



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Christ + exercising of freedom = “good” life

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“While it is true that ‘insight’ often leads to ‘freedom,’ it is also true that it often results finally in the demand for ‘freedom’ in the form of ‘rights’ ...In the Christian faith ‘knowledge’ or ‘insight’ is never an end in itself; it is only a means to a greater end, the building up of others.”
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“BUT, THEY’LL NEVER TAKE OUR FREEDOM!”



“SO, WHAT NOW?”



“SO, WHAT NOW?”

1. We'll never take your freedom!



“SO, WHAT NOW?”

1. We'll never take your freedom!

2. But, will you lay it down?

