

All Things For the Sake of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:19-23



Verse 19

- Within the context of the chapter, Paul is explaining that he has been maintained by nobody. This was a stumbling block to the Corinthians.
- *'Free from all men'* – We are beholden to nobody but God:
 - *I do not have to be popular to be saved*
 - *I do not have to be trendy*
 - *I can express my faith free of charge*
 - *No human has a monopoly on my religion*
 - *I discover truth for myself*
 - *I believe for an eternal reward, not an earthly*

Verses 20-21

- Whenever it was expedient to his preaching, Paul maintained the customs and appearances of the Jewish lifestyle (Acts 23:6-7, 21:20-26, 16:3).
- V. 21 does not mean 'lawless' people are unaccountable to the law, for all people will be judged by God (John 12:48, Acts 17:30-31).
- Paul accommodated heathen customs to the best of his ability (Acts 17:32-34, 17:23, 22:25ff, Galatians 2:11-16).

- On the one hand, Gentiles were pleased that Paul did not lay unnecessary burdens on them. On the other, the Jews were pleased that Paul went out of his way to avoid offense.
- Paul's motive was purely the spiritual benefit of those around him. He would have sacrificed anything, as exemplified by 1 Corinthians 8:7-13.

Verse 22

Verse 23

- Do I push my opinions on others, especially about morally-neutral subjects?
- Have I become a slave to some people?
- Do I tolerate eccentricities or customs?
- Is every part of my life ‘for the Gospel’s sake’?
- How do I treat those closest to me?
- Maybe it is time for me to reassess some things and make more sure of my calling!

