

A Structural Study of 1 Corinthians 9

Bob Schlenker 1996

- A₁)** **a₁)** "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?
b₁) Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?
c₁) 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others,
c₂) surely I am to you!
b₂) For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
a₂) 3 This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me.
- B₁)** **a₁)** 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink?
b₁) 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us,
b₂) as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas ?
a₂) 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?
- C₁)** **a₁)** 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?
b₁) Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?
c₁) 8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view?
c₂) Doesn't the Law say the same thing?
b₂) 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."
a₂) Is it about oxen that God is concerned? 10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he?
- D₁)** **a₁)** Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.
b₁) 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?
c₁) 12 If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?
c₂) But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.
b₂) 13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?
a₂) 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.
- B₂)** **a₁)** 15 But I have not used any of these rights.
b₁) And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me.
c₁) I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. 16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
c₂) 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

b₂) 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge,
a₂) and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

- A₂)** **a₁)** **A)** 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone,
B) to win as many as possible.
- b₁)** **A)** 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew,
B) to win the Jews.
- c₁)** **A)** To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law),
B) so as to win those under the law.
- c₂)** **A)** 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law),
B) so as to win those not having the law.
- b₂)** **A)** 22 To the weak I became weak,
B) to win the weak.
- a₂)** **A)** I have become all things to all men
B) so that by all possible means I might save some.

D₂) 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

- C₂)** **a₁)** 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.
b₁) 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.
c₁) They do it to get a crown that will not last;
c₂) but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.
- b₂)** 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave
a₂) so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."