

RULES OF THE RACE

1 Corinthians 9:1-27





QUALIFYING FOR THE
RACE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-7

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 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. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 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? 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?

NEED TO DEFEND?

- Paul constantly had to defend his apostleship.
- The issue is his rights as a teaching servant of God.
- All workers receive benefits from their work. God's workers should have this privilege too.



DEFENSE AND COMPENSATION

- Do we have to defend our faith and work to Non-Christians?
- Do we have to defend our faith and work to Christians?
- Those busy working for Jesus should receive "compensation" from the church. Sometimes it's a salary. Sometimes this "compensation" takes a different form. (I.e food, hospitality, etc.)



“You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.”



-Paul quoting from the Law of Moses in 1 Corinthians 9:9

THE RACE HAS A COST

1 CORINTHIANS 9:11-14

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

COST OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

- The apostles left everything to spread the gospel.
- Some of the apostles received physical care for the work they did. Paul chose (?) to work as a tent maker.
- Enduring different struggles opened many doors for sharing the gospel.



TODAY'S GOSPEL COST

- Focusing on spreading the gospel is work. Today many do not leave everything to spread the gospel.
- Spiritual work should be lead to physical benefit.
- Enduring things can lead to furthering of the gospel.



REASONS FOR RUNNING
MAY VARY

1 CORINTHIANS 9:15-18

But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one. For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

- Paul's boast is based on his voluntary service. The message doesn't change based on his supporters.
- His responsibility is to Christ and the message of the cross.
- Voluntary teaching leads to a reward. Involuntary teaching is simply doing the job out of responsibility.

STILL STEWARDS

- Our boasting should be in the Lord.
- We are responsible for God's Message.
- We are still stewards of the gospel today. Voluntarily or by compulsion, the job still must be done.

BLESSINGS
faith love
caring smiles
prayer
joy CRAZY
HAPPY
SWEET
Generation DREAMS DAUGHTER
mother cherish BEAUTIFUL
GOD family together
LAUGH home father sons simple ALWAYS
celebration memories HUGS
Loyal FREE
FOREVER
gratitude
HOPE wise
knowledge
BELIEVE
Teacher HERO
Compassion
kindness Respect

OUR RACE INVOLVES OTHERS

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

- He is willing to live and behave like those he is seeking to reach.
- Paul's main goal is winning souls for Jesus.
- Seeking to win souls and sharing God's message allows him to share in the gospel.



ALL THINGS TODAY

- Are we willing to respect and even enter into other cultures to share salvation?
- What is our main goal today's?
- Are we partaking in the gospel today?



Rock Springs church of Christ
grow in respect to salvation.

THIS RACE HAS RULES

1 CORINTHIANS 9:23-27

I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

NOT TO BE DQ-ED

- Paul is seeking to run this race well. He does not want to be disqualified.
- Running God's race well requires self-control.
- Running God's race well requires training and discipline.



NOT TO BE DQ-ED TODAY

- The race of faith still requires training, self-control, and discipline.
- We must remain faithful or we run the risk of disqualification.

