

CALLED TO BE SAINTS **TOGETHER**

My Rights and the Gospel

1 Corinthians 9:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶For 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! ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸What 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. ¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Background and **context**:

Paul's clearly expressed 'right' to be ...

And yet, he did not want to compromise the Gospel by appearing to be a ...

Paul was very consciously choosing _____
over temporal reward.

Some **implications** from the text:

A word to the potentially "called" ...

Jeremiah ...

Jonah ...

Moses ...

Paul ...

We are _____ in Christ but _____ to the world.

Why?

What is the best way I can **serve** my family, friends, co-workers, etc.?

Paul was not a “_____” Christian, nor was he a _____ one. He was a _____ Christian.

Because his primary life purpose was to make Christ known wherever he went, Paul exhibited these characteristics:

- _____ to the needs, thoughts, and limitations of the lost
- _____ to the social and cultural conditions around him
- _____ in the message that is utterly cross-cultural

Paul was willing to forego what most people value the most – their “_____” – or the sake of what God values the most – the story of _____.

What this means for me in my life ...