

1 Corinthians 22 – 8:11-9:6

Paul's Power

1. 8:9-11 – Liberty as an Offense

- a. The stumbling block = “grace means it is ok to sin” 2 Cor 5:19...really? 2 Cor 5:10
- b. They hear you don't tithe nor keep Sabbath and get offended – Rom 14:5-8
- c. “Weak brother perish” - Don't destroy him, teach him - Romans 14:13-19
- d. Others never wanted to do right, and loose behavior justifies their actions.
- e. Sin is still sin; your meat is changed by mature doctrine – 1 Cor 5:1-2, 6:9

2. 8:12-13 – A Sin Against the Brother

- a. “wound their conscience” - Destroying the work of God: Rom 14:20, 1 Cor 3:17
- b. The sin is the offense to your brother and to God who you serve - Rom 14:23
- c. Grace promotes a strong faith and a charitable spirit – 1 Tim 1:5, 4:12
- d. Paul strives for a pure conscience before God and men - Acts 24:16, 1 Cor 9:22

3. 9:1-2 – Paul's Authority

- a. Is Paul weak for responding to the weaker conscience? By no means – 1 Cor 9:27
- b. He proves his strength in liberty by his willing subjection to edify others.
- c. “am I not an apostle?” a unique apostle – Rom 11:13, Acts 9:15, 26:16
- d. “my work in the Lord” they received it from him, and owed him - 1 Cor 4:15
- e. “apostle unto others” such as Peter, James, John to Israel – Rom 15:20, Gal 2:8-9
- f. “seal of my apostleship” Gentiles, with power, and grace: 2 Cor 10:7-16, 12:12-13
- g. If anyone has a power and authority over others it is Paul, but... he does not use

4. 9:3 – Examining Paul

- a. He goes to Jews first (Rom 1:16), sends gifts to Jerusalem (Acts 11:29), says we are debtors (Rom 15:27), then wants to restrict liberty (1 Cor 8:13)... what's going on?
- b. Where is the display of his power, legitimacy, and reputation? A: In the doctrine.
- c. The Corinthians were offended by Paul's abased appearance - 2 Cor 11:5-7
- d. The Corinthians suffered fools gladly who boasted – 2 Cor 11:19-20

5. 9:4-7 – Paul's Power Not Used

- a. “eat and drink” – that is of other man's riches Mat 10:10, Luke 10:7, Acts 20:20, 33
- b. “a wife” apostles had wives and families, but Paul did not – 1 Cor 7:39, Mat 8:14
- c. “forbear working” as the Lord instructed – Luke 12:24-31, Acts 4:33-36
- d. Paul worked with his own hands - 1 Cor 4:12, 1 Tim 5:8, 2 Thess 3:10
- e. He had power to demand such liberties, but he subjects himself to serving others.