

LESSON 6
RIGHTS AND WRONGS
1 CORINTHIANS 8:1—9:18



1 What personal rights and freedoms have been issues in the news recently?

2 Describe a time when you had to stand up for your rights. How did you feel in that situation?



Read 1 Corinthians 8:1—9:18, the chart “Stronger, Weaker Believers,” and the following notes:

☐ 8:1 ☐ 8:4–9 ☐ 8:10–13 ☐ 9:4ff

3 What was the controversy in Corinth about meat that had been sacrificed to idols (8:1–13)?

4 What limitations did this place on the Corinthians' rights (8:9–13)?

5 What rights could Paul have insisted on (9:4–15)?

6 What was more important to Paul than exercising his rights (9:15–18)?

In our society, people are expected to stand up for their rights and watch out for themselves. God's way is just the opposite. Although we have rights, there are certain values and priorities that take precedence over our rights. These include not hurting a brother or sister in Christ, not causing others to stumble, and, above all, doing what God has called us to do. We are to live with humility and love, placing God and others above ourself.



7 Although eating food sacrificed to idols wasn't wrong, why did Paul counsel against it?

8 What are some modern-day equivalents of food sacrificed to idols?



9 Give some examples of how insisting on your rights can cause others to stumble.

10 When would it become necessary to limit your rights?

11 What sensitivities of others would you want to be careful about offending?

12 Whom do you know who might be affected by your freedoms and rights?



13 What can you do to help that person grow in his or her faith?

A What advantages and disadvantages can you see to someone providing for his or her own financial support while doing ministry? What can you do to support those in ministry?

B Why was it important for Paul to preach whether he wanted to or not (9:17, 18)? What areas of Christian responsibility are your duty to perform in much the same way?

C In this passage, who are stronger brothers and who are weaker brothers (8:7–13)? What responsibilities does each have toward the other? What responsibilities does this give you?

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LESSON 7

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19—11:1



1 Choose one of the following activities, and tell what it would take to be excellent in it: ☐ chess ☐ cooking ☐ research ☐ football ☐ piano ☐ writing ☐ carpentry.



Read 1 Corinthians 9:19—11:1 and the following notes:

☐ 9:24–27 ☐ 9:27 ☐ 10:1–5 ☐ 10:7–10 ☐ 10:11 ☐ 10:16–21 ☐ 10:21
☐ 10:23, 24 ☐ 10:28–33 ☐ 10:31

2 What made Paul excellent at telling people about Christ (9:19–27)?

3 How did Paul choose his activities? (See 9:23, 27; 10:23, 24, 31.)

4 How did the people of Israel get sidetracked from their goal (10:1–13)?

5 How would you describe Paul's purpose in life?



Paul was a driven man. He had a clear sense of what was important and moved ahead accordingly. Paul knew that God had called him to share the good news about Christ, so he ordered his life around that purpose. Paul was motivated by the needs of people, his responsibility to use his gifts, and the knowledge that God would evaluate his life. As a result, he was dedicated to telling others about Christ. God has a unique calling and purpose for each of us. To be effective, we need to have a sense of purpose and to know where to focus our energies.

6 How does a person determine God's purpose for his or her life?

7 How does this purpose relate to the nonspiritual areas of life, such as home, school, work, and recreation?

8 How can a person do “all for the glory of God” (10:31)?



9 If you could accomplish one thing for God during this life, what would it be?

10 What resources (spiritual gifts, relationships, material possessions, time, education) has God given you to accomplish this goal?

11 How can you bring more of your activities into line with God's purpose for your life?

12 What changes do you need to make to become more focused toward God's purpose for your life?



13 What step can you take this week?

A To what does the word *prize* in 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 refer? How can you make this a more effective motivator in your life?

B What was Paul's method for sharing the gospel (9:19–23)? What's the difference between finding "common ground with everyone" (9:22) and unhealthy compromise? How can you find "common ground with everyone" without compromising your commitment to Christ?

C What did Paul mean when he talked about the possibility of being disqualified (9:27)? What might this idea mean for you?

D The Israelites lost sight of their purpose even though God did miracles in their presence (10:3, 4). What might this example mean for you?

E How can a Christian drink both the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons (10:14–22)? How would this be possible in your life?

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