

Serving Others at the Expense of Self

Introduction:

Peace is not simply the absence of war but a genuine joy with others
How do we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace? Eph 4

I. The Principle of Christian Liberty Explained 8:1-13

II. The Principle of Christian Liberty Illustrated 9:1-27

The fact that Paul relinquishes his privileges as an apostle in order to preach the gospel illustrates the attitude toward Christian liberty which gains God's approval.

A. Paul's position as an apostles entitled him to financial support 9:1-14

1. Based on his vision of the resurrected Christ and the evidence of his apostolic work :1-3 Specific situation of Paul
2. Paul's position entitles him to financial support because any worker is worthy of his wage as the Lord has commanded :4-14 General stipulation for all workers (Gal 6)

B. Paul relinquishes his rights as an apostle for the sake of preaching the Gospel in order to gain reward 9:15-27

1. Paul gives up support in order to gain a reward for going beyond his duty :15-18
2. Paul gives up personal rights in other areas in order to win more people to Christ :19-23

NB Notice how flexible Paul is towards people

Notice how he keeps his focus on the main thing.

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing

How flexible are you? With whom and when is it hard for you to flex?

3. Paul gives up rights to gain Gods approval in the same way the athlete disciplines himself in order to win the prize :24-27

NB I Cor. 3-4, II Cor 5:9-10, Rom 14:10 The Bema awaits us all!

The Scriptural Portrait of Competition

The Race Phil 2:16 Heb. 12:1-3

The Risk I Cor 9:24-27, I Cor 3:15

The Reward II Cor 5:9-10, Ron 14:10

GBJ- Joint Heirs
Fred Chay

Principle

Paul is an example of how to forgo one's rights for the sake of others.
Servant leadership is the way of the Christian life. Philp 2:5, John 13

NB- By giving up rights on earth so that others can have the chance to go to heaven, we ensure riches and reward for ourselves in heaven.

Practice

1. In your daily life this week:

Who did you serve?

How did you demonstrate it?

How will you serve others this week so as to share and make the gospel known?

2. Do you keep your focus on the reality of the future?

Ethics is Enhanced by Eschatology