

Paul's Apostleship Claim | 1 Corinthians 9:1-2

- Verse 1 –
 - Because Paul has been talking to the Corinthians about freedom (and the curbing of freedom for the sake of evangelism), Paul expresses his apostleship to show that, of all people, he is the one that *could* express freedom if he wanted to.
 - To affirm his apostleship and freedom, he asks four rhetorical questions, each which give some insight.
 - **Am I not an apostle?** This gives testimony that apostleship was *unique* and *not held by all*.
 - **Am I not free?** If anyone could express total freedom to decide what to do in regard to the context of eating meat offered to idols, it would be an apostle.
 - **Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?** This is an allusion to the experience on the Road to Damascus. Seeing the Jesus face to face was a requirement for apostleship.
 - **Are not ye my work in the Lord?** While some had previously claimed Cephas, etc. (1 Cor. 1:12), Paul was the one who planted the church (1 Cor. 1:6, 3:10). It is likely, however, that this statement goes deeper, and that Paul is saying that Paul, as apostle to the church, is their apostle, unlike the 12.
- Verse 2 –
 - It is not a possibility that Paul be not an apostle unto others, but is an absolute truth. The grammar rule is that when *if* is used with a subjunctive verb, it denotes possibility, but if it is used with an indicative verb, it denotes reality. The verb to be is indicative. The word *if* could be translated *since*. (Compare 2 Cor. 12:11, though I be nothing).
 - Paul was doubtless the Apostle to the Corinthians because they were the seal of his apostleship. The seal is the mark of authenticity or the thing that holds something shut. In what way are the Corinthians the seal of mine apostleship for Paul? The answer may not be yet fully understood. But, we can say the following:
 - Paul claims in 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 that the Corinthians were our letter of commendation, known and read by all men and that it was being manifested that [they] are a letter of Christ.
 - In 2 Corinthians 12:12 Paul commented that the signs of a true apostle were performed among you, including signs and wonders and miracles.
 - Many commentators state that the success of the work in Corinth was the proof of Paul's apostleship, but such an explanation seems wordly and begs the question of the failure Paul may have had in other places. Furthermore, success in ministry (even healthy success) is no sign of apostleship.

Paul's Rights, Not Exercised | 1 Corinthians 10:3-15

- Verse 3 –
 - Paul continues to defend his *freedom* as well as his *freedom to refrain* from exercising liberties.
 - The Greek word translated **answer** is ἀπολογία [apologia], literally, *from words*. An *apology* is a verbal explanation.

- Verses 4-5 - As in verse 1, Paul gives several rhetorical questions.
 - Verse 4 - concerning freedom from dieting restrictions.
 - Verses 5 - concerning freedom to marry
- Verse 6 - Paul's next rhetorical question concerns his *right not to work* (Darby translation). While Paul could draw a salary from those he serves (and thus **forbear working**) he instead works as a tentmaker.
- Verses 7-9
 - In verse 7 Paul speaks **as a man** giving illustrations from everyday life.
 - In verse 8 he makes a transition to the **law of Moses** which he explains in verse 9, quoting Deuteronomy 25:4.
- Verses 10-11 - Paul continues expressing unexercised rights, namely that of earning an income. This passage is rightly used to justify the *paid/professional ministry*.