

# Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2021

A love-driven perspective surrenders personal freedoms for others  
1 Corinthians 9:12b-18

## A gospel-informed perspective chooses love over personal freedoms

### Review

- A life of love, not theological knowledge, identifies us with God. (1 Cor. 8:2-3)
- Flaunted freedom harms those for whom Christ died (1 Cor. 8:9-10)
- “Stumbling” one of God’s beloved children should be unthinkable (1 Cor. 8:13)

## Paul’s track record with the Corinthians exemplifies wise love

### 1. Paul and Barnabas willingly faced hardship to remove barriers to the Good News

*12b Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.*

### 2. Going to extremes, Paul rejects even the most basic of rights.

*1 Cor. 9:13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? 14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. 15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision.*

### 3. Paul’s motivation for this extreme denial of his rights is...

**...not merely by his apostolic responsibility,**

*1 Cor. 9:15b For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. 16 For 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!*

**...but by the prospect of adorning the gospel.**

*1 Cor. 9:17 For 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. 18 What 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.*

*Acts 20:34-35 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

## Reflection & Discussion

**Think of a time when you chose not to make use of a right or freedom or when someone gave up their right for you? What motivated the surrender of liberty?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. How does Paul's rebuke at this early point in the letter relate to what he addresses in Chapters 8 and 9?**

**Reflecting on the last months (or years), what issues have tempted you to assert your rights and freedoms? Evaluate that experience in light of Paul's extreme example.**

## SONGS

"Everlasting God" - Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

"Graves Into Gardens" - Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer

"Great Are You Lord" - Jordan, Leonard, Ingram

"Christ Be All Around Me" - David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, and Leslie Jordan

## BUDGET

**GIVING LAST WEEK: \$39,797.90**  
**WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00**

**YTD GIVING: \$1,322,122.94**  
**YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,410,880.00**