

Examining Motives

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. **Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. **Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. **Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
 - c. Christian Liberty Abuses (8:1 – 11:1)

What is a Christian Liberty?

An area of liberty is a practice or activity, not sinful of itself nor specifically commanded against in Scripture, which a Christian is free to participate in under certain circumstances, but which may become sinful if the liberty is used in excess or in conflict with loving others.

A. Serve others effectively (9:19-23)

1. The overall **cause** that Paul has signed up for is the building of Jesus Christ's Church.
 - a) The *specific goal* discussed in these verses is winning unbelievers.
 - 1 Cor. 9:19 – "... that I might win the more."
 - 1 Cor. 9:20 – "... that I might win Jews... that I might win those under the law."
 - 1 Cor. 9:21 – "... that I might win those who are without law."
 - 1 Cor. 9:22 – "... that I might win the weak... that I might by all means save some."
 - 1 Cor. 9:23 – "... for the gospel's sake."
 - b) Another *major goal* within the building of the Church is building up other believers.
 - 1 Cor 8:1 – "... but love edifies."
 - 1 Cor. 8:13 – "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."
2. The **attitude** in pursuing this goal is volunteering to serve.
 - 1 Cor. 9:19 – "... I have made myself a servant of all"

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

3. The **method** used to pursue this goal is setting aside freedom to make the reception of the gospel more likely.
 - Repeatedly in 1 Cor. 9:20-22 – “I became as...”

B. Serve God acceptably (9:24-27)

1. Who evaluates our lives?

2. How could we become disqualified?

3. How should we think about liberty in a way that is acceptable to God?
 - a. **Temperance** (1 Cor. 9:25)

 - b. **Intentionality** (1 Cor. 9:26)

 - c. **Discipline** (1 Cor. 9:27)