

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Biblical Economics and the Church (1 Corinthians 9:1-14)**

Date: **October 23, 2016**

In last week's passage, Paul explained that sometimes Christians must lay down their rights out of love toward their brothers and sisters. He used the eating of food that had been sacrificed to idols as an example of an act that might cause a weaker Christian to stumble. Eating such food was not inherently sinful, but if it caused a weaker brother to stumble, then it was not worth consuming. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul now discusses how he himself has given up some rights. After arguing for why a minister should be compensated for his work, Paul then explains how he has given up this right in order to better minister to the Corinthians. As we study 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 this week, we are going to examine Paul's argument for why Christian ministers and pastors should be financially compensated for their work and ministry in the church. We will see that as church goers contribute money to the church, they should expect the church to pay its ministers. We will see six reasons why this is so from Paul's argument in the text.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. Pastor Jacob discussed biblical economics at the outset of his sermon. What is a biblical view of economics?
  - b. Paul begins his argument by reminding the Corinthians that he is an apostle. What is an apostle? What are the qualifications of an apostle? Are there any apostles today? What qualifications does Paul list for himself as an apostle?
  - c. Soldiers, farmers, and shepherds are all compensated for the hard work they do (v. 7). They are allowed to live off of the resources they manage. Can you provide other examples where people live off of the resources they manage?
  - d. What does it mean to "muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," (v. 9)? How is Paul's argument in this verse an argument from lesser to greater?
  - e. Explain the point that Paul is making in verse 11.

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- f. What does Paul mean when he writes in verse 12, “If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?”
  
- g. In verse 13, Paul argues that Levitical priests were compensated for their temple service. Lookup Leviticus 6:15-18, 6:28, 7:6-8; Numbers 5:9-10, 18:8-20; and 2 Chronicles 31:4 and write down what they teach us about how Levitical priests were compensated and rewarded for their ministry.
  
- h. In verse 14, what is the command that Paul says was given by the Lord Jesus?
  
- i. What does 1 Timothy 5:17-18 teach us about how much pastoral staff should be compensated?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
  
2. Why should you contribute money to the church? Why is it appropriate to expect the church to use part of your contribution to pay the pastoral staff?
  
3. Of the six reasons that Paul gives for the compensation of ministers, which reason did you find to be the most compelling? Why?
  
4. Some people are corrupt and abuse this principle to line their pockets and get rich from gospel ministry. How are we to think about such people? Why shouldn't these extreme examples deter us from appropriately paying our ministers?
  
5. How much should we give to the church? Use Scripture to defend your answer.

**Accountability Question**

Do you regularly give to the church with a cheerful heart? See 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.