

“What Would You Give Up to Reach Someone?”

1 Corinthians 9:1-23

The Message in a Sentence. . .

The gospel **advances** when servants freely **surrender** real rights so Christ is seen clearly.

Guidelines That Shape How Believers Use Their Rights. . .

- Believers have real **rights**, and we should not pretend otherwise (vv. 1-14).
- Believers put the **gospel** ahead of their rights (vv. 15-23).
 - We should lay down **benefits** that blur the gospel (vv. 15-18).

- We should lean into **people** so the gospel can be heard (vv. 19-23).

Reflect then Act. . .

- **Reflect:** Where might insisting on what you are allowed to do—what you can eat, say, post, spend, or align with—cause Christ to be misread or the gospel to be blurred?
- **Act:** This week, identify **one legitimate right** you could exercise but choose not to, so the gospel is seen clearly. Then pray: *“Lord, help me gladly lay this down so Christ is seen clearly.”*
For example: (1) refraining from a lawful freedom around someone with a tender conscience, (2) choosing not to defend yourself when it would harden rather than help, or (3) limiting a public expression that could cause others to hear Christianity as just another group or agenda, instead of good news about Jesus.