

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Church Leadership in Relationship

I Corinthians 9:1-27

8:1-13, Relationship responsibility & liberty

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John 1:1-2, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

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John 16:13-14, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

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Jesus IS The Word & we are people of His Word

- **II Timothy 3:16**, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

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- God speaks to us by His inspired Word
- What is He saying to us here?

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The issue being addressed in the whole letter is division in God's Church (**Christ's Body, 1:13**)

- Christians separating from each other without concern for each other
- **Duet. 6:4 & Mark 12:29**

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People often justify their separation by questioning or accusing leadership

- Satan got Eve to question God's leadership & authority

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Those separating in The Church were questioning Paul's leadership & authority

- Stepping out from under God authored authority began in the garden
- It is now an inherited selfish inclination & vulnerability
- Independent of any authority above us

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Genesis 3:5, "You will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- You will decide for yourself what is good and evil
- According to your own judgement
- **I Cor. 6:5**, (Choosing to be under Roman authority rather than God's church)

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Numbers 12:1-9, Aaron & Miriam spoke against Moses

- Supposing to lift themselves up by pulling him down
- God was angry with them!
- And rebuked them before the whole congregation
- Moses interceded in their behalf

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In **8:13** Paul declared freedom from his rights, for the benefit of others

- Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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Paul is now being completely personal, even as God is.

- God's authority is voluntary for those who choose to place ourselves under it
- It's that way in **His Church** too.

Paul is making the ultimate appeal on the basis of their relationship

- A shepherd provides for & protects his flock, like a good dog in the field
- AKC definition of Rottweilers guarding the flock
- Paul is being both with these people he loves

Authority in God's kingdom is given (**Matt. 28:18**)

- Embraced willingly, never required
- With the exception of sin (**Ch.5**)
- Forced imposition is earthly, not heavenly

Vs. 1-6, Paul states the foundation of his relationship with them

- He also calls to account the different standard they are applying to him
- Differing standards is hypocrisy

Vs. 7-14, He recalls the historical standard of God's word

- He refers to Biblical authorization for rights afforded God's leaders

Notice **he didn't start his reply to them there**

- He began with warm parental love
- Then addressed the specific difficulties they brought him

Vs. 15-18, He is free to partake of these leadership rights...

- And he is free to decline them

Vs. 19-23, In Christ's behalf, he meets & serves people where they're at

- Just as Jesus did

Matthew 20:25-28, (28) "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Vs. 24-27, Paul calls us to live our faith on purpose, for Christ's purpose

- Don't wait for life to happen to you
- You happen to it, as Christ's witnesses (**Acts 1:8**)

II Corinthians 5:20, Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- Without being submitted to God, on His terms, our appeal has no power
- We can't give what we don't have

Paul is urging us to reconsider and embrace God's call...

- Not just to be forgiven & redeemed...
- But to be like Christ toward others made in His image.

This is about people made in God's image & likeness... to be like Him.

- **Romans 8:29**, For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Jesus came and demonstrated how God lives as human among humanity

- This is about, **how are we doing?**
- Are we treating each other as His image bearers?
- Or are we doing it our way instead?