



*Complete these question **BEFORE** your Growth Group meets and then use your answers in discussion.*

1 Corinthians 9:1-23

Free to be a slave!

TO PONDER:

When do you find yourself wanting to claim your rights?

When do you find yourself wanting to claim your rights within our church family?

Paul continues his response to the Corinthians questions about eating food sacrificed to idols. This chapter might appear to be a diversion, but...

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-12a

Paul defends his ministry against those who sit in judgement on him.

Put in your own words the criticisms that might have been levelled against Paul.

Put in your own words Paul's defence of his ministry.

What lessons are there for us in these verses?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:12b-18

How are these verses surprising?

From what you know of the life story of Paul how might you explain his passion to preach the gospel?

How do you respond to Paul's passion?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

What is astonishing about v19?

What is familiar about v19? (cf 11.1)

What do you think Paul means each time he writes, "I became like..."

"Paul was so changeable he clearly had no unchanging convictions." What do you think?

What might following Paul's' example here look like in your life? (be practical & specific)

How was Paul following the example of Christ Jesus?

How would you respond to the idea that Chp 9 is a diversion from what Paul taught in Chp 8?

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*What questions do you have from this passage?*

\*Pray about the issues God's Spirit has raised in his Word in this passage.