

# What Really Matters?

1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Week of July 2, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** NBA basketball player LeBron James says, "Money doesn't change you, it frees you to be more of who you are." If you had a billion dollars in the bank, what would you want to do with your freedom?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 9:1-18**

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

**1. Paul spends a great deal of time talking about The Gospel in this chapter. How do you tend to think about and define the gospel when talking to others?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- *The gospel is the good news that God lavishly loves us more than we can possibly fathom. This is striking because as humans, we are more sinful than we can possibly imagine.*
- *And yet, we cannot do anything so vile that He stops loving us.*
- *Also, we also cannot earn any more favor from God, because He loves us perfectly already.*

**2. Paul begins by making a statement: *Those who minister the gospel have the right to be paid for their labor.* What do you think about the idea of pastors, church staff members, or missionaries having a right to wages? Did you grow up in a church that thought this way?**

**3. Although he argues for these rights, Paul does not demand his rights as a pre-requisite for ministry. For Paul, we lay down our rights so that we can preach the Gospel. What do you think it looks like in our context to lay down our rights for the sake of the Gospel?**

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## **BECOME:**

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- 4. The tension in the first 18 verses is about pragmatics. The Gospel needs to get preached, someone must preach it, this person needs to locate an audience, and all of this arrangement requires funding on some level. What do you think is the best way to strategize the practical and financial needs of Christian ministry? Or, What is the best way to fund and fuel Christian ministry in your community?**

**Close by praying together.**