SUNRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS
David Williams, Teaching Elder

November 15th, 2026

Giving Up Our Rights for a Greater Purpose

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. - 1 Cor. 9:19-25

Are my personal opinions, preferences or actions keeping those around me from clearly seeing the love of Jesus?

OVERVIEW

- Paul feels unfairly judged by the Corinthian church
- He defends his status as an apostle
- He foregoes accepting money from them even though he rightfully deserves to be compensated
- Paul is looking ahead to a heavenly reward and does not want anything to hinder the gospel message
- We must evaluate Scripture through the lens of God's command to love Him and to love others.

IMPLICATIONS

- As Christians, are we willing to give up _____ _____ and _____ those who believe differently?
- Do those around us feel a barrier to God's love because we've made _____-_____ issues more important than the _____ _____?
- We can measure our _____ by how much we are willing to _____ to _____ others.
- Are we making it difficult for others to see Christ in us because we are too focused on our _____, _____, or _____ _____?

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What are some personal rights, preferences, or privileges that Christians sometimes have difficulty giving up for the benefit of others?

Have you ever had an opportunity to set aside your own preferences or opinions to build a relationship with someone or demonstrate God's love? What happened?

How can we distinguish between compromising our personal preferences and compromising our biblical convictions? How do we know when to stand our ground and when to let something go?

How might our political opinions, cultural preferences, or disagreements over nonessential issues become barriers to sharing the Gospel or showing Christ's love?

If we measured Christian maturity by how much we are willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others, how would that change the way we evaluate our own spiritual growth?

What is one thing you could give up, change, or do differently this week that would make you more effective at demonstrating Christ's love to someone else?

SUNRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS
David Williams, Teaching Elder

November 15th, 2026

Giving Up Our Rights for a Greater Purpose

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. - 1 Cor. 9:19-25

Are my personal opinions, preferences or actions keeping those around me from clearly seeing the love of Jesus?

OVERVIEW

- Paul feels unfairly judged by the Corinthian church
- He defends his status as an apostle
- He foregoes accepting money from them even though he rightfully deserves to be compensated
- Paul is looking ahead to a heavenly reward and does not want anything to hinder the gospel message
- We must evaluate Scripture through the lens of God's command to love Him and to love others.

IMPLICATIONS

- As Christians, are we willing to give up our rights and serve those who believe differently?
- Do those around us feel a barrier to God's love because we've made non-Gospel issues more important than the Good News?
- We can measure our maturity by how much we are willing to sacrifice to benefit others.
- Are we making it difficult for others to see Christ in us because we are too focused on our opinions, preferences, or being right?

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What are some personal rights, preferences, or privileges that Christians sometimes have difficulty giving up for the benefit of others?

Have you ever had an opportunity to set aside your own preferences or opinions to build a relationship with someone or demonstrate God's love? What happened?

How can we distinguish between compromising our personal preferences and compromising our biblical convictions? How do we know when to stand our ground and when to let something go?

How might our political opinions, cultural preferences, or disagreements over nonessential issues become barriers to sharing the Gospel or showing Christ's love?

If we measured Christian maturity by how much we are willing to sacrifice for the benefit of others, how would that change the way we evaluate our own spiritual growth?

What is one thing you could give up, change, or do differently this week that would make you more effective at demonstrating Christ's love to someone else?