

What Are You Willing

1 Corinthians 9.15-27

Theme of the Letter: Spreading the Gospel – Mission of the Church:

1. **Unity** – The Church of Corinth was divided. People were focused on the personalities instead of Christ and His Mission.
2. **Yielding** – When a body is divided, often it is also selfish. We could see the disconnect between husbands and wives, friends, mature in the faith and the younger in the faith, using freedoms to get one's own way.
3. **Sacrifice** – the flip side of yielding. Some may say this is same. Though sacrifice is always yielding, not all yielding is sacrifice. Letting someone go first at the 4-way stop is yielding. There is no sacrifice. But letting your child have his fill at the dinner table means you go with less, that is sacrifice.

Paul this morning gives us ways in which he has sacrificed for the Gospel.

1. His Rights – What wasn't read: Rights to make his living by the Gospel. Right of ministering with his believing wife as did the other apostles, Jesus' brothers and especially Peter, in verse 5.
2. His Freedom – he was willing to become what was needed. For the Jew, though he wasn't living for the law, it was no problem for him to follow customs of the law. For the non-jew, he could live without the law of Moses, though staying moral.
3. His Comfort – Went into stringent training as an athlete. He did this with training, staying in the Word, in fellowship with others and with Christ. Basically he let the message mold his life.

The Blessings:

1. Attitude – Paul is obligated to preach – Choose the attitude
2. Joy of Giving – Contrast with Jonah -
3. Benefits – Eternal life, crown lasting for ever.

For us – what are we willing to sacrifice to help in spreading the gospel?

1. Rights and freedoms? our rights are paramount. Yet Lay them aside?
2. Comfort – It is hard to be perceived as a nut job.
3. We can't know unless we are in the Word, when is it beneficial to give?

Matthew 28.18-20 – we are also obligated to share the gospel. So now we need to choose the attitude. When we willingly choose to become like Paul who will tell us to imitate him in the next chapter, then we will become united, yielding people who seek to win the crown of eternity.