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Paul’s Own Example

9: 1-27

Having entered **himself** into the discussion in **8:13**, **Paul** now goes on to illustrate the basic principle **he** was teaching at the end of **Chapter 8** – namely, that even though we may have certain freedoms **in Messiah**, we are not obligated to exercise those freedoms at every possible opportunity; in fact, there will be times when we specifically need to refrain from doing so in order that **a fellow believer** might not stumble, and that the cause of **Messiah** may be advanced. As **Paul** does so, **he** uses as an example an issue that will soon blossom into a severe crisis in **his** relationship with **the Corinthians**.²²⁴



If eating a piece of **meat sacrificed** to an **idol** was a big deal to **the believers** at **Corinth**, **Paul** completely raised the steaks (pun intended) by talking about **his** right to receive **money** in comparison to **their** right to receive **meat**. **Paul** had a right to be paid by the churches **he** started and for the ministry **he** rendered on their behalf. But **Paul** willingly chose to limit that freedom in order to maximize the effectiveness of **his** ministry. As **he** developed this illustration, we gained some significant insight into the scriptural responsibility of a church to pay its pastors.²²⁵