

A PAULINE MODEL for MINISTRY

I Cor 9:1-27

I. PAUL'S CONCESSION: PROPER to PAY PROPERLY

- A. Workmen worthy of compensation
 - 1. Illustrations: soldiers, farmers, shepherds
 - 2. Paul's co-laborers: Peter; James, et al took different tracks
 - 3. Old Testament priests & levites enjoyed assured incomes (at times lavish!).
 - 4. Preachers/ministers/clergy rightly paid when appropriate
- B. Church History:
 - 1. In Catholic tradition "secular" priests entitled to remuneration (thus bishops, cardinals, priests often quite wealthy)
 - 2. Magisterial Reformers approve state-support & clergy often well-paid; generally disdain "poverty," thinking pastors should prosper
 - 3. Dissenters (Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists) rely on congregations for pastoral support and preachers must generate donations
 - 4. Independent preachers entrepreneurs with questionable consequences
 - a. Early Church concern for itinerant preachers/prophets
 - b. Billy Graham's accountability, transparency remarkable
 - c. Oral Roberts' (and many televangelists') occasionally dubious strategies

II. PAUL'S PREFERENCE: SELF-SUFFICIENT INDEPENDENCE

- A. In accord with rabbinical tradition, work to support yourself, teach voluntarily
- B. Socratic example & some philosophers taught freely
- C. Church History:
 - 1. Non-Christian emphasis on distinctive simplicity (Buddhism)
 - 2. In Catholic tradition "religious" clergy generally renounce property, salaries; "mendicants" (Franciscans; Dominicans) take vow of "poverty"
 - 3. Protestants often encourage voluntary, unpaid endeavors by laymen—e.g. teaching Sunday school, running soup kitchens, etc.
 - 4. Some non-profit charitable organizations provide minimal salaries for office staff—e.g. Heart to Heart; Habitat for Humanity—but rely on volunteers for most work

III. PAUL'S PASSION—ZEAL FOR JESUS

- A. Asserting his "apostolic" rights, Paul emits confidence in calling, legitimacy of calling
- B. A "magnificent obsession" evident in many areas
 - 1. Sports—"fans" by definition irrational & enduring
 - 2. Hobbies—art, stamps, coin collecting
 - 3. Scholarly fixations—cowboys & Indians; Civil War battles; heraldry
 - 4. Treasure seekers—lost ships; buried gold
- C. "Woe is me" sustain's Paul's fervent preaching, evangelism
 - 1. Some apostles (most clearly John) less fervent than Paul
 - 2. Some of greatest preachers seemed similarly inspired (e.g. Origen; St Francis; Ignatius Loyola; John Wesley; David Livingstone;

IV. PAUL'S STRATEGY: "ALL THINGS to ALL MEN"—flexibility/adaptability in evangelism

- A. Jesuits in China, French in Canada
- B. Franciscans in California
- C. Post-WWII evangelical mission strategy shift
- D. "Seeker-friendly" churches—"homogenous congregations"—in modern America

V. PAUL'S CHALLENGE: RUN the RACE

- A. Perseverance essential
- B. Self-denial necessary
- C. Victory the goal worth pursuing