

# Love + Liberty

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

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**"Look what we get to do!"  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

## Let's look at the athlete (vv. 24-25).

1. The athlete has a goal to achieve (v24).

*1Cor. 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.*

2. The athlete adjusts life to this goal (v25).

*1Cor. 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*

## Let's look at Paul (vv. 26-27).

1. Paul practices so as to develop skills & habits (v26).

*1Cor. 9:26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.*

2. Paul lives with the reality that loving people can require intentional sacrifice (v27a).

*1Cor. 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

3. Paul seeks a "Well done!" from Jesus because he chose to love people (v27b).

*1Cor. 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

## Let's look at ourselves.

1. Do our goals mirror those of Paul?

- a. Toward believers: "love builds up" (1 Cor 8:1).

- b. Toward unbelievers: "I have made myself a servant to all that I might win more of them" (1 Cor 9:19).

## 2. How do we develop the needed self-control?

*Gal. 3:2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ... 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?*

Forgiveness of sins forever — Eph 1:7	Permanently accepted by the Father — Rom.3:24
Adopted as beloved children — Eph.1:5	Inheritance of eternal life — Eph.1:11
Jesus is unembarrassed of us — Heb.2:11	The Holy Spirit as a guarantee — Eph.1:13-14
A new and ever-growing family — Rev.7:9	Healing of human divisions — Eph.2:14-22
Permanent access to the Father— Heb 4:16	The promise of Christ-like character — Rom.8:29
Help to overcome temptation — Heb. 2:18	The promise of a new, glorified body — Phil. 3:20-21
Victory over death — 1 Cor. 15:54-56	New relationship to suffering — Rom. 5:3-5
God is for us — Rom.8:31	And on and on and on...

## Reflection & Discussion

1. Please read our primary passage aloud three times.
2. Why do you think Paul compares the believer's life & ministry to an athlete? Is the comparison a good one for us today? Why or why not? Can you think of any other comparison that might fit?
3. What is Paul's first comparison and how does he apply it? See verse 24. What goal does Paul have in mind for the believer? How has he identified this goal earlier in chapters 8-9? How do your goals to influence believers & unbelievers (i.e., your ministry) align with Paul's?
4. What is Paul's second comparison and how does he apply it? See verse 25. How have you adjusted your life so as to receive an imperishable reward from Jesus?
5. Self-control is essential if we want to love people. Read the verses from Galatians 3 as found in your notes (verses 2-3, 5-6). Explain what Paul means by the phrase “by hearing with faith” (vv. 2, 5). How does this passage help us in developing increased self-control?
6. What are some specific steps you can take to develop yourself as a lover of both unbelievers and believers?

## SONGS

“King Of Heaven” - Jason Ingram, Paul Baloche

“How Great Thou Art” - Carl Boberg

“What A Beautiful Name” - Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

“O Come To The Altar” - Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye

## BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$60,545.00

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,505,325.44

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,551,968.00