

# 1 Corinthians 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

## Analysis

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**And this I do for the gospel's sake,** Paul summarizes his motivation: everything is subordinated to gospel advance. Financial sacrifice (v. 12-18), cultural adaptation (v. 19-22), and personal hardship (v. 27) all serve one master: the gospel. The Greek euangelion (εὐαγγέλιον, "good news") is Paul's polestar—every decision is evaluated by whether it helps or hinders gospel proclamation.

**That I might be partaker thereof with you.** Paul does not view himself as superior dispenser of the gospel to inferior recipients. He is a fellow-partaker (Greek synkoinōnos, συγκοινωνός, "co-sharer, joint-participant") with the Corinthians. Both apostle and converts share in the gospel's blessings—forgiveness, adoption, resurrection hope. This humble posture prevents ministerial pride: Paul serves the gospel; he does not own it. He shares its benefits with all believers, from the newest convert to the oldest saint.

## Historical Context

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Greek synkoinōnos denoted business partners or co-heirs sharing an inheritance. Paul uses it to emphasize gospel unity: apostles and laypeople equally share Christ's riches (Eph 3:6). This countered hierarchical Greco-Roman patronage, where benefactors lorded over clients. Paul is not the Corinthians' patron; he is their brother, equally dependent on grace.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does "for the gospel's sake" function as a decision-making grid for ministry priorities?
2. What does it mean for ministers to be "partakers" of the gospel with their congregations?
3. How does this humble posture (co-participant, not superior dispenser) protect against ministerial pride?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦτο	δὲ	ποιῶ	διὰ	τὸ	εὐαγγέλιον	ἵνα	συγκοινωνὸς
this	And	I do	for	G3588	the gospel's	that	partaker
G5124	G1161	G4160	G1223		G2098	G2443	G4791

  

αὐτοῦ	γένωμαι
thereof	I might be
G846	G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Timothy 2:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**Mark 8:35** (Parallel theme): For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

**Hebrews 3:14** (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

**1 John 1:3** (Parallel theme): That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 2:5** (Parallel theme): To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

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