



**1 Corinthians 9:23-27** Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church

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## I. Introduction

- A. Background to 1 Corinthians
- B. Super Bowl Sunday and the Isthmian Games
- C. The parallel of sports and spirituality

## II. Corinthian Conditioning for Christians (1 Cor.9)

- A. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (v.23)
- B. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (vv.24-26)
- C. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (v.27)

## III. Conclusion

- A. The spiritual life is tied to the physical life.
- B. The liberties of life often compromise the gospel.
- C. The Christian life can be hard, but it is worth it.

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## TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY GROUP REFLECTION

ICEBREAKER: Did you play organized team sports as a kid? If so, what sport(s) did you play and did you enjoy it?

1. Reread 1 Corinthians 9:23-27 and discuss the overall meaning of this passage of Scripture – what is it teaching and how does it challenge you?
2. Now read the whole 9th chapter of 1 Corinthians and discuss how the verses we studied on Sunday (vv.23-27) fit into the larger context of the chapter (and other larger themes in the epistle you are familiar with).
3. In our study we focused on Paul's emphasis on self-control and sacrificing for the sake of the gospel. What was/is your biggest sacrifice for the gospel? What sacrifices might God be calling you to make today or even preparing you to make in the near future?
4. When should a Christian voluntarily limit his or her liberty? What liberties might God want you to consider sacrificing now for the gospel? (relationships, career, goals, finances, ideologies, etc.). Share and spend some time in prayer together seeking God for wisdom and strength to know how best to sacrifice for the gospel and to have the strength to do it.
5. With Super Bowl weekend before us, we are reminded that our culture literally worships sports, athleticism, money, greed and more. Discuss the allure of sports in our culture and temptations related to it (especially youth sports that suck many away from church for months of the year). How do we as faithful Christians use sports as a place of witness, but also draw a line as a matter of worship? Discuss the temptations and pitfalls we face and how we can navigate it faithfully as believers in our city.