

# The Rights of a Minister

## 1 Corinthians 09:01–15

### 1. *The right to be accepted as a minister*

- a. He has the call
- b. He has borne the fruit of the ministry

### 2. *The right to be supported*

- a. To be fed
- b. To receive travel support
- c. To receive enough income that he can minister full time
- d. Supportive arguments
  - 1) The soldier's right
  - 2) The farmer's right
  - 3) The shepherd's right
  - 4) The law says this right belongs to a minister

- 1 Am I not free?  
Am I not an apostle?  
Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?  
Are you not the result of my work in the Lord?
- 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you!  
For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.
- 3 This is my defence to those who sit in judgment on me.
- 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink?
- 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?
- 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?
- 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?  
Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes?  
Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?
- 8 Do I say this merely from a human point of view?  
Doesn't the Law say the same thing?
- 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."  
Is it about oxen that God is concerned?

<p>5) The conclusion:  These things are said  for the sake of God's people  and God's minister</p> <p>e. The central question:  Does spiritual labour  (the greater) merit material  benefits (the lesser)?</p> <p><b>3. <i>The right to be the first person  supported by the church</i></b></p> <p>a. Not to be abused by either  the church or the minister</p> <p>b. The minister is to share  in what is offered at the altar:  Historically practiced</p> <p>c. The Lord's command:  The minister is to live  by the gospel</p> <p><b>4. <i>The right to make the judgment  about receiving wages or not</i></b></p>	<p>10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he?  Yes, this was written for us,  because when the ploughman ploughs  and the thresher threshes,  they ought to do so  in the hope of sharing in the harvest.</p> <p>11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you,  is it too much if we reap  a material harvest from you?</p> <p>12 If others have this right of support from you,  shouldn't we have it all the more?  But we did not use this right.  On the contrary,  we put up with anything  rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.</p> <p>13 Don't you know  that those who work in the temple  get their food from the temple,  and those who serve at the altar  share in what is offered on the altar?</p> <p>14 In the same way,  the Lord has commanded  that those who preach the gospel  should receive their living from the gospel.</p> <p>15 But I have not used any of these rights.  And I am not writing this  in the hope that you will do such things for me.  I would rather die  than have anyone deprive me of this boast.</p>
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