

# 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

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.

### 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

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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**The Inside Look at a Minister (Part I):  
A Compulsion to Preach and to Minister  
1 Corinthians 09: 16–23**

**1 *His compulsion:***  
*To preach the gospel*

**2 *His accountability:***  
*Judgment and woe  
if he fails to preach*

- a. If he preaches willingly,  
he is rewarded
- b. If he preaches unwillingly,  
he is still accountable

**3 *His reward:***  
*To gain the satisfaction  
of preaching the gospel freely*

**4 *His method:***  
*To become all things to all men*

- a. He became as a Jew to the Jews  
(the legalist)
- b. He became as a non-religionist  
to the heathen
- c. He became as weak  
to the weak Christian
- d. His purpose:  
To save some  
and to personally share in the gospel

16 Yet when I preach the gospel,  
I cannot boast,  
for I am compelled to preach.  
Woe to me  
if I do not preach the gospel!

17 If I preach voluntarily,  
I have a reward;  
if not voluntarily,  
I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

18 What then is my reward?  
Just this:  
that in preaching the gospel  
I may offer it free of charge,  
and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

19 Though I am free and belong to no man,  
I make myself a slave to everyone,  
to win as many as possible.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew,  
to win the Jews.  
To those under the law  
I became like one under the law  
(though I myself am not under the law),  
so as to win those under the law.

21 To those not having the law  
I became like one not having the law  
(though I am not free from God's law  
but am under Christ's law),  
so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak,  
to win the weak.  
I have become all things to all men  
so that by all possible means I might save some.

23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel,  
that I may share in its blessings.