

Colossians 4:1

- 4:1 **Christian masters must soberly obey Christ's command to be fair, in light of their Master.**
1. As with each authority we have seen so far, there is a limitation provided by warning masters.
 2. Scripture does not give servants rights, but it rather gives masters duties to protect servants.
 3. While servants are to obey froward masters, that does not give masters the right to be froward.
 4. Christian masters cannot take oppress servants, especially in light of their high performance.
 5. We know what just means – fair, right, appropriate. But equal cannot mean equal absolutely!
 6. For men working different jobs, different hours, and with different abilities deserve extra pay!
 7. What does equal mean? It means equitable, fair, just, and impartial, fitting the circumstances.
 8. Masters must remember their omniscient Master in heaven (Num 32:23; Eccl 5:8).
 9. The parable of the kingdom of heaven with greatly varying rates of pay is holy (Matt 20:1-16).
 - a. The laborers each agreed voluntarily for the wages offered them before their employment.
 - b. The widely varying wages were for a single day, not the 30 years of a man's employment.
 - c. The parable's purpose was teaching a spiritual lesson, not rules for masters and servants.
 10. Ephesians 6:9 adds very powerfully that masters should do the same things to their servants.
 - a. This cannot mean obedience, or there would be no authority. Chaotic anarchy would reign.
 - b. It does mean fear and trembling before God, in singleness of heart as unto Christ, not with eyeservice as menpleasers, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service as to the Lord and not to men.
 - c. Such as statement as this is a very strong check on arrogant feelings on the part of masters.
 11. Ephesians 6:9 condemns threatening and other overbearing methods as a management style.
 12. Ephesians 6:9 reminds masters God is no respecter of persons, in spite of their higher position.
 13. Christian masters have a wonderful opportunity to show Jesus Christ's gospel in a sinful world.
 14. Scripture has many provisions given to protect servants (Ex 21:1-11,26-27; Lev 19:13; Deut 15:12-18; 24:14-15; Job 31:13-15; Prov 29:21; 30:10; Eccl 5:8; 7:21-22; Mal 3:5; Jas 5:4).
 15. Scripture also has many provisions given to protect masters (Ex 21:20-21; Pr 19:10; 26:3; 29:19; 30:22; Eccl 10:5-7; Matt 8:9; 20:1-16; Luke 17:7-10).
 16. The law to protect runaway slaves was for slaves running from foreign masters (De 23:15-16).
 - a. There is no justice in allowing servants to run away from masters whenever they felt like it.
 - b. This particular class of servants simply wanted to be within the gates of Israel, as they were leaving foreign and pagan oppressing masters and seeking asylum within Israel.