

Paul's Rights as a Roman Citizen

SOCIAL

- Right to use triple Roman name
- Right to wear the toga
- Right to marry a Roman citizen
- Right to pass citizenship to children

FINANCIAL

- Exemption from *tributum* (taxes to Rome)

POLITICAL

- Right to vote if in Rome
- Right to audience before Roman governors and officials in the provinces
- Right to be appointed to government office
- Right to stand for election to town council (*decuria*) of towns in Italy and the provinces

LEGAL

- Right to make contracts under Roman law, guaranteeing standing within Roman legal system
- Exemption from death or punishment without due process of trial and appeal process
- Right to trial before Roman magistrate
- Right of appeal for judgment to the emperor (*appellatio ad Caesarem*)
- Exemption from physical abuse in interrogation
- Exemption from authority of non-Roman local officials
- Protection from accusation by noncitizens
- Deaths of Roman citizens investigated by government

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Explanation

Chart 15-4 enumerates several of the powerful rights enjoyed by a Roman citizen such as Paul. These rights significantly enhanced his social, financial, political and legal stature, making it possible for him to command respect and influence. Compare chart 4-6, relating similar rights to parallel spiritual blessings extended to the early members of the kingdom of God.

References

- A. N. Sherwin-White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963).
A. N. Sherwin-White, *The Roman Citizenship* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1939).