

were told to submit themselves to the secular power. "The lesson that we are ordained of God." Slave was taught to submit to the master, Ephes. VI. v. 5. "Slaves be obedient to them that in the flesh are your masters - not as eye pleasers but as servants of Christ" - a Christian master to forbear threatening etc realize that in sight of God slave is equal.

John there is no where in apostolic teaching the implication that slavery is itself ^{may be deduced from Paul's epistles, no direct statement} wrong, nor is there the suggestion that it is the duty of a Christian master to liberate his slaves. ^{May be deduced}

Epistle to Philemon, slave had run away & become converted Paul sent him back with this epistle "would gladly have kept him but not without consent," - also exhorted to Philemon to treat him properly, but no hint that the relation of slavery is itself wrong.

No doubt such teachings as this would lead to wholesale manumissions, as the natural outcome of the enthusiasm of brotherly love, fervor, Christian charity etc. During 3rd & 4th & 5th centuries there are examples of manumission of hundreds of slaves, regarded as the mark of Christian charity. It wasn't charitable to set adrift in the world as free, a slave who hadn't a chance to stand on his own feet. This kept many from freeing their slaves. Not Christian teaching led to kinder treatment, ^{which led to the amelioration of the law.} Code of Justinian punishment of master for cruelty etc.

By the time the Roman world became Christian the earlier enthusiasm passed away, especially when the second coming of our Lord ceased to be expected. Slavery increased, masters