

Relinquishing Your Rights

Dave Buehring July 26, 2015

Introduction

- 1) We are living in a world where everyone is grasping on to their rights — entitlements:
 - a. Sexual
 - b. Gender
 - c. Death — choose the time, place, method
- 2) **Judges 21:25** — “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- 3) **Proverbs 14:12** — “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
- 4) We are Jesus’ servants, His Ambassadors in this world — meaning we represent Him in our sayings and doings! *My opinion* really doesn’t matter — *His* does! We are to lovingly speak truth!
 - a. In Scripture, there are two things that we are to “judge.”
Morality — right and wrong; Doctrine — truth and error.
- 5) We have Civil Rights and there are times that we are to righteously exercise those. I’m not talking today about that.
- 6) This is the question: *Are you free to follow Jesus in obedience?*

**A Lordship Issue: the grasping of our rights
has more to do with our own willfulness.
We’re talking today about being fully yielded to Him!**

Jesus and Rights

- 1) **Philippians 2:5-11**
“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- 2) Have this mind...understanding...attitude...way you look at things
- 3) Did not grasp...hang on to...tighten hand around...did not control
- 4) Emptied Himself...relinquishing His rights...open palms (Palms up!)
- 5) Obedient to the point of death...even death on a cross.

- a. His focus was on being available to serve and obey His Father
John 5:19 – “So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.””
- 6) The Fruit – where our eyes need to be fixed in these days! **Philippians 2:9-11**
- a. Name above every Name (made famous through our lives)
 - b. Every knee bows, every tongue confesses “Jesus Christ is Lord” (people turning to Jesus)
 - c. God glorified (enhancing His reputation in the eyes of others)
- 7) The problem: our rights often clash with the simplicity of obeying Jesus – and we’ve got to get this rightly aligned!

Rights that may need to be relinquished

***Note:** Relinquishing one’s rights does not mean a lack of caring or taking responsibility for the people and things that are in their lives. The purpose of surrendering rights is not to become irresponsible. It’s about having an attitude that’s free to follow Jesus in obedience! It’s living a “palms up” life!*

1) Family

Jesus: Matthew 12:46-50

“While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’”

- a. Family – Parents, your children belong to God. Missions vs. American dream.
- b. Marriage – Allow God to choose your mate; His person, His timing.
- c. Singleness – When you marry you surrender this right!

2) Friends

Jesus: Mark 14:50-52 in Gethsemane

“And they all left him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.”

- a. Sometimes friends hold us back from moving forward.
- b. “Season of life” friends (closer in certain seasons)

3) Finances & Possessions

Jesus: Matthew 8:20

And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

- a. Is there anything you're so attached to that you're not willing to part with? Like with all these things — they can subtly become idols!

4) Popularity & Reputation (*Being Misunderstood*)

Jesus: Mark 3:22

“And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul,’ and ‘by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.’”

John 10:31

“The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.”

- a. The Scriptures speak about having a good reputation. This refers to a willingness to allow people to think what they may – but you're going to obey Jesus!
- b. Do lack of sales, or place of influence hinder you from obeying Jesus? Again, potential place here of idolatry!

5) Time

Jesus: Matthew 14:13-16

“He withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said, “**They need not go away; you give them something to eat.**”

- a. Have you yielded 24/7/365 to Jesus? Ask Him about it!
- b. What is it that you have missed out on because you've not relinquished your time to Jesus? What does that mean moving forward?

6) Food, Shelter, Sleep, Comfort

Jesus: Matthew 4:1-2

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.”

- a. What if Jesus wants to wake you up at night to pray?
- b. Mission trips / rights to certain kinds of entertainment (comfort)
- c. God is more committed to building His character in you — than making sure you're comfortable!

Halfway through list of 12 reminder of why Jesus asks us to relinquish rights:

+ Name above every name

+ Every knee bows, every tongue confesses Jesus Christ is Lord

+ To the glory of God the Father

7) Position, Influence, Career, Gifts, Ministry

Jesus: Philippians 2:6,7

“...did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant...becoming obedient...”

- a. God sees ahead, He’s trustworthy!

8) Nationality or Denomination

Jesus: John 4:7-9

“A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?’ (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)”

- a. Your heritage needs to be celebrated; yet yielded to God for His purposes
- b. We *can* raise our various “tribes” in the Body of Christ – their doctrines and things they emphasize – up higher than Jesus!

9) Freedom

Jesus: Matthew 26:47-50

“While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.’ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, do what you came to do.’ Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.”

- a. may have to sacrifice self and personal freedom to reach nations

10) Opinions and the “right to be right” *(not talking about moral issues)*

Jesus: Mark 14:60-61

“And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, ‘Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?’ But he remained silent and made no answer.”

- a. Have you asked Jesus if you’re to speak up in a group and share what you are thinking? Or has He asked you to remain silent?

11) Hurt, Disappointment and Unforgiveness

Jesus: Luke 23:34

“And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’”

- a. Hanging on to hurt? Disappointment? Unforgiveness?

12) Future

Jesus: Luke 22:41-44

“And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

- a. Have you sought Jesus on your future? Is your future so tightly planned that you could feel interrupted – rather than engaged – by the will of God?
- b. What if He wants to take you on an adventure?

All 12 Rights

- family
- friends
- finances & possessions
- popularity & reputation
- time
- food, shelter, sleep, comfort
- position, influence, career, gifts, ministry
- nationality or denomination
- freedom
- opinions and the “right to be right”
- hurt, disappointment, and unforgiveness
- future

Cues revealing unrelinquished rights

Note: Whatever rights we don't relinquish to God will subtly drive our lives even to the point of mastering us! Sometimes they can become so enmeshed that our whole identities can be based upon them!

- 1) Anger/Bitterness – someone/thing in your way; “mine” vs. “His” (steward); poison of soul
- 2) Self-Pity – “poor me” mentality
- 3) Control/manipulation of people and circumstances – grasping tight

**The only right I deserve is spending eternity away from Jesus in hell.
Because of what He's done for me on the cross,
that's not something I need to concern myself with anymore!
Instead of grasping rights, I can live with gratefulness –
receiving life daily as a gift from God!**

Discussion Questions

The Sermon Discussion Questions are being provided to the Life Groups by Jimmy Harris, Life Group Pastor. If you are not in a Life Group and would like to receive copies of the Sermon Discussion Questions, please contact Pastor Jimmy: jimmy@gracechapel.net.

Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.