



"I want my rights"

Beware

**The Judge is standing at
the door**

"I want my rights"

In the world today people do things according to their personal understanding, believing that everyone has rights that need to be protected.

Some want the right to self indulgence, so personal extravagances is pursued. Some want the right over their body, so abortion is excusable. Some think they have the right to control others, so politicians rule the world with their crafty manipulation. Some want the right to dominate others, so domestic violence is tolerated. Some want the right to express anger, so to commit murder and war is only human. Some want the right to follow their career and realise their potential, so divorce is inevitable. Some want the right to fulfil all sexual desire, so immortality is rampant.

Everyone doesn't always choose the full extent of these examples, however the degree of our involvement, be little or much is not

what condemns, but the just beginning to pursue these things is what condemns; for a war begins with words of pride and anger. Immorality begins with sinful lust that of uncontrolled. Ambition for worldly gain can causes us to love things and use people.

The only right we have is God's judgement, for all have rebelled, all have disobeyed Him. We have all pleased ourselves in demanding our will be done in our own way. Individually we have all been self centred, deceitful, demanding, dishonest, divisive, disloyal, angry, unloving, impatient, unforgiving, ungrateful, and rebellious, both to those given by God to be in authority, and to God Himself.

However if we are real Christians who now exist in Christ by the mercy of God, we are no longer to be like the people of this world, we no longer live as we once did. We have died to the world and its human understanding and

corrupted spiritual values. We now have Christ who lives His life in us. We live our lives for the glory of God. Our home is in heaven. We live according to the values and requirements of God's life in the kingdom of God, under His supreme authority.

We recognise God has authority and sovereignty over everything, on earth and in heaven, and we bow down to His Majesty and Authority. The new life God gives to those who follow Jesus requires the death of our self centred life. We are a new creation. *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'*

1 Cor 5:17

We now live face to face with God

Jesus Christ came to make it possible that we can have an intimate relationship with God, in His presence, face to face. The Christian life lived in God's presence is the essence of the

Christian life. To live face to face with God is to live one's entire life always in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God. Living in the presence of God means loving Him with all our hearts, mind, and strength; therefore living in His presence means having a deep desire to do all according to His will. And His will is always for our benefit.

This face to face life in the presence of God is a spiritual life in which we are untangling ourselves from the ways of the world, and from self centred ambition and control. This means we have given up the need to have more and more of its imagined treasures. We have surrendered to God's control so we have stopped trying to control others. To live in the presence of God is to understand that whatever we are doing, and wherever we are doing it, we are acting under the watchful eyes of our loving Father; knowing there is no

place in the world that we can escape His penetrating gaze.

The Christian life is not about demanding our rights, but having a burning desire to accomplish God's rights as the one and only Almighty. The presence of His gaze should cause us to rejoice before Him because He has chosen us to be His children who live in fellowship with Him through His Son. To be cast out of His presence is the last thing anyone would want who has tasted His love. So we remain among the truly repentant who call upon the Lord for mercy even while we know we are often undeserving.

Because we are not yet as we could be as His children, filled up to the fullness of God, we may know extended periods of sincere devotion, but sometimes our love for Him seems to grow cold, and it is easy for us to fall into evil by putting self first. If we are struggling with disobedience and self seeking,

we need to search our heart and ask the Lord to help us love Him consistently as we surrender to His Divine Authority. We need to be delighted to be in His presence, always remembering that He looks with favour on His people who love to do His will.

For us to be aware of His presence is to be deeply aware of His Sovereignty. That is, we know all things are under His Authority. The unswerving experience of the devoted saints is to recognise that if God is God, then He is indeed sovereign over all things.

Regardless of what is going on around us, it is because He allows it, and we can be assured that God causes all things we may experience to be used ultimately for our greatest good as He transformed us into the image of His Son.

Loving God does not mean remaining in an unsafe situation. Where matters of personal safety are involved, we must remember God

give us Governments to ensure our safety and to protect us; (Rom 13:1-7) so if it is possible, help needs to be sought in this way or with those who work for this purpose.

In every situation, our lives are to be living sacrifices in His presence, (Rom 12:1) offered in a spirit of adoration and gratitude for all He has done to reconcile us to Himself.

The Lord Jesus made it possible for us to live in the presence of God's love, and He tells us how we can remain in His love. He says to us, *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."* John 15:10

Listen to the word so Jesus. *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but*

whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it." Luke 9:23-24

So in a real way the Christian has no "rights" of his own, because he has surrendered his life to Christ. Christ "owns" the believer. *"You are not your own; you were bought at a price."* 1 Cor 6:19-20

Our submission to the will of God means we keep God's command. *"AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.'* *There is no other commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:30-3) In fact, we serve God most when we serve others. Matt 25:40

God's refining fire

The refining process of God cleansing us of worldly habits through challenging experiences; and it is absolutely necessary if

we are to become spirituality mature so that we can put on more of the Christ life.

So we should not see difficult people or trying events and temptation to disobey Him as just negative obstacles to be avoided or overcome, but instead need to see them as God's 'in service training lessons' to help us put off unloving responses so that we learn to respond according to the life of Christ who now lives in us.

To help us trust in Him, the Bible tells us God causes all things to work for our benefit.

'And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'

Rom 8:28

The Bible also tells us God gives us His Spirit and causes us to walk in His will. *"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in*

My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." Ezekiel 36:27

So His refining fire of earthly trials is not beyond our ability to walk as children of God. *'His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.'* (2 Pet 1:3) And it is *'God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'* Phil 2:13

When we face difficult times as we must if we are serious about living face to face with God, we need to ask the Spirit of Christ Jesus what we need to put off according to our old life that holds us back, and what we need to put on of that life which we have already received according to His image and likeness.

If we are not challenged by difficult situations that cause us to react to the darkness in the world according to the unloving ways of natural man, we are probably taking a little

spiritual vacation, or we have gone to sleep in our Christian walk. Paul teaches us that we need to be putting to death the old life we once lived. *'For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.'*

Rom 8:13

Jesus said we must take up our cross daily.

Luke 9:23

If we are committed to Christ we will face difficult situations. *'Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.'*

2 Tim 3:12

What aspect of God's love do we need to see growing in us if we are to be faithful in our walk with God? To be face to face with God means we have given up any idea of saying "I want my rights" Jesus Christ lived with no rights, and we follow His example.

We now live the Christ life

'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.'

Gal 2:20

We no longer live for self

'Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.'

Phil 2:3, 5-8

His death on the cross for the good of mankind means we join His purpose and individually we are responsible for living together as the children of God in the Church.

We are God's workmanship

God created mankind for His sake, (Isaiah 43:7) not for their personal desires, or any other person's sake. A godly focus is to do what is best for God and His kingdom. Matt 6:33

Paul tells us that individual believers are like parts of a body, each playing an incredibly important and vital role for the success of the body to function as it should. The various parts of a body function only when they are a part of the body as a whole. A thumb can do things no other part of the body can do, but only when it's connected to the hand! Likewise, the body as a whole is an amazing living thing, but only when all the parts are taken care of individually. 1 Cor12:25-26

We now live life before God

'Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.' Eph 4:1-6

All Christians live in love

'Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.'

1 Cor13:4-7

We must grow up into Christ

'Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.'

Eph 4:13-15

We walk as Christ walked

'Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.' (Col 2:6) *'The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'*

1 John 2:6

'So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbour, for we are members of one another. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.'

Eph 4:17-18, 22-25 , 31-32

We are to be Imitators of God

'Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.'

Eph5:1-2, 15,17

We are to grow in Christian righteousness

'Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are

increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.'

2 Peter 1:5-8, 10-11

"I want my rights." By the mercy and grace of God we are saved from this attitude and His judgement which is nearby.

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Rev 22:12-13

Living Water Resources



Come to the river

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Rev 22:12-13

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