

The Rights of God

Introduction.

1. We are living in a period in human history in which we hear so much about “rights.” For example, we hear people talk about “Civil rights,” “human rights,” “disability rights,” “parental rights,” “children’s rights,” “mineral rights,” etc. Sadly, we also hear people talk about “gay rights,” and “LGBT rights.”
2. Americans, as a people, are concerned about “rights.”
 - a. Hence, there are ten amendments to our Constitution called “**The Bill of Rights**,” the first one of which pertains to freedom of religion and freedom of speech;” in other words, it grants us the freedom to do what we are now doing in worship.
3. “Rights,” the word, is defined as “legal, sound, or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement...”
4. There are some things now-a-days classified as “rights” which are not right, things which are plainly wrong. “Gay rights” is an example. In today’s world homosexuality is defended as a “right,” but in Leviticus 18:22 we are told that for men to “*lie with mankind as with womankind; it is abomination.*”
 - a. For that matter freedom of speech is a Constitutional “right,” but before God freedom of speech does not give us a “right” to lie, use profanity, or gossip. Rev. 21:8; Eph. 4:29; I Peter 2:1; Prov. 26:20.
5. But amid all today’s talk about “human rights,” and all that supposedly comes under that general category, it seems that virtually nothing is being said about The Rights of God! It should be self-evident that God’s rights take priority over human rights!
6. Lesson Title: The Rights of God.

Discussion.

I. Why God’s Rights Supersede the Rights of man.

- A. God is Creator.
 1. Gen. 1:1.
 2. Consider the power of His word, Psalm 33:6-9.
 3. Being the creator of this world, God owns everything. Psalm 24:1; I Cor. 10:26,28.
 4. In addition to God owning everything; “*all souls*” also belong to Him. Ezek. 18:4.
 - a. Hence, God is the **Creator**; we are the **created**, Gen. 1:27.
- B. God is the Potter, we are the clay.
 1. Rom. 9:21; Jer.18:6.
 2. The potter has power over the clay; the clay has no control over the potter.
- C. God is All Powerful.
 1. Genesis 17:1.
 2. Hence, “*the works of the Lord are great*,” Psalm 111:2; His works are “*marvelous*,” Psalm 139:14.
- D. God is All-wise.
 1. Psalm 147:5.
 2. He knows all things, I John 3:20.
 3. Nothing can be hidden from the “all-seeing” eye of God, Heb. 4:13.
 4. God is so powerful and so wise that He can “*declare the end from the beginning*,” and even say “*My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*,” Isa. 46:10.
 5. God’s ways and God’s thoughts are as much above our ways and thoughts as the heavens are above the earth, Isa. 55:8-9.
- E. God is infinitely Holy.
 1. Isa. 6:3; I Peter 15-16.
 2. God is so holy that in Him there is “*no darkness at all*,” I John 1:5.
 3. God is so holy that He cannot even be tempted with sin, James 1:13.
- F. God “*is love*,” I John 4:8.
 1. His commandments, though they may at times appear “*grievous*” are for our Good; I John 5:3; Deut. 6:24.
 2. We, even as adults before God, are in many respects like children before their parents; we often want what is not in our best interest. But God’s wisdom is “*infinite*,” Psa. 147:5; He is the very essence of love, I John 4:8. He **wants** what is in our best interest, and He **knows** what is in our best interest.

II. The Rights of God. God has the Right to:

- A. Make Laws for Humans to follow.
 1. He is the Potter; we are the clay; He has our well-being (both temporal and eternal) in mind.
 2. Gen 1:27; Gen. 2:15-17; Heb 8:10-11.
 3. His instructions are complete, 2 Tim. 3:16-17,.

4. **We** do not have the right to alter or to change **God's** laws, Rev. 22:18-19.
 - a. If we make our own rules, we will suffer the consequences. Matt. 7:22-23.
- B. To Remit Sins.
 1. Sin is a violation of divine law, I John 3:4.
 2. Hence, all sins are against God; Gen. 39:9; Psalm 51:4
 3. If all sins are against God, then pardon takes place in the mind of God – not in the mind of the sinner.
 4. God's terms for remitting the sins of an "alien sinner," John 8:24; Luke 13:5; Matt. 10:32; Mark 16:16.
 5. Man, the sinner, is not in a "bargaining position" with God; to the contrary, he must learn God's terms for pardon, and then comply by following God's terms.
- C. To Add People to the church.
 1. We must preach the gospel, but God gives the increase, I Cor. 3:6.
 2. God adds "*the saved*" to "*the church*," Acts 2:47, but who constituted "*the saved*?"
 - a. Briefly summarize Acts 2:21-41.
- D. To Specify the "Items of Worship."
 1. God is the Object of our worship, John 4:23-24.
 2. If He is the Object of our worship, then worship must be on **His** terms.
 - a. It must be "*in spirit and in truth*," John 4:24.
 3. The items of worship (which God has specified in His word).
 - a. Continuing in the apostles' doctrine, or teaching, Acts 2:42; John 17:8; John 16:13.
 - b. Praying, Acts 2:42.
 - (1) Praying unto God in Jesus' name, Matt. 6:9; John 14:13, and according to His will, I John 5:14.
 - c. Giving of our means as prospered, I Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7.
 - d. Singing praises to God, I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19.
 - e. Partaking of the Lord's Supper, Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-26.
- E. To instruct His people on How to live.
 1. Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:4; 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:1.
- F. To Judge us in that last day.
 1. John 5:27; John 12:48.
 2. All will be judged by His word, Rev. 20:12-15.
 3. The results will be eternal in duration, Matt. 25:46.

Conclusion:

1. As it relates to our standing before God, we must be more concerned about **His** "rights" than our rights!
 - a. We have sinned against God, Rom. 3:23; hence, pardon takes place in the mind of God.
 - b. God adds the saved to the church, Acts 2:47, and those added thereto are the ones who are reconciled unto God, Eph. 2:16.
 - c. If we want **God's** approval we must submit to Him and upon **His** terms.
 2. When we submit to Jesus we then receive the "*right*" to become His children, John 1:12, NKJV.
 3. Some people pride themselves on being able to "drive a hard bargain" when it comes to dealing with man.
 - a. Illus. He goes to an automobile dealer to purchase an automobile; he sees the "sticker price" on the window, then he starts trying to get the price down.
 - b. Illus. He wants to purchase house. He sees a house which interests him; he learns the "asking price," and then he starts trying to get the seller to lower the price.
 4. But God is the Creator; He is the Potter. We are the Created; we are the Clay. We have sinned against God. We are in no "bargaining position" with God. **We** must do **His** will. Matt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14.
- Bobby Witherington, August 7, 2016.