

I HAVE MY RIGHTS!

These days, everyone is claiming his own rights. It seems as if every group is fighting for something. Some of these rights are valid and important, some are trivial, but the claim is always the same—"I have my rights!"

Some people actually stick up for the rights of others, and this is admirable and good, but...

There is someone whose rights we never think about. If we think of this person at all, it is not to consider his rights. This person is God. Yes, that's right, God has His rights too! Let's look at one of the major rights of God.

GOD HAS THE RIGHT TO RULE US

But why, you might ask? Is it because He made us? No! Is it because He is stronger than we are? No! Is it because He is smarter than we are? No! Is it because He loves us? No! Just because a muscle-bound genius appears at your door and says he loves you, that doesn't give him the right to run your life. Consider this ...

A government only has the right to govern a people in those areas where the people need to be governed. If the people can govern themselves, then any rulership the government expresses will be considered tyrannical oppression. Or this ...

The parents of a child only have the right to rule the child as long as the child cannot care for himself. When the child becomes a responsible adult, the parents lose the right to rule the child because the child can govern himself. If the parents

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The parents of a child only have the right to rule the child as long as the child cannot care for himself. When the child becomes a responsible adult, the parents lose the right to rule the child because the child can govern himself. If the parents

try to run the child's life when he doesn't need it anymore, they will be acting like dictators.

So then, why does God have the right to rule us? It's actually quite simple. God has the right to rule us ...

BECAUSE WE NEED IT!

We are finite (limited in knowledge, wisdom, and power) and so we need someone like God to help us live in the most loving, reasonable, productive fashion. Even if we were not sinful, we would still not know the best choice to make in every circumstance. We are not smart enough, wise enough, powerful enough, or loving enough to effectively run our own lives. The history of the human race makes it abundantly clear that we don't know how to run our own lives.

We need to be ruled, and this gives God the right to rule us, but God also meets the conditions to be the best ruler of mankind. Only God is smart enough, wise enough, and loving enough to be the ruler of the entire human race.

Now, if we need to be ruled, and God meets the conditions to be the Ruler of the human race, then it only makes sense to submit our lives to the loving wise leadership of God. This is what the Bible means when it says that we should let Jesus be the Lord (master) of our lives. God has the right to rule us, but we choose whether we will submit to Him, or rebel against His loving commands.

We have all chosen to run our own lives and resist the reasonable, wise, loving rulership of God. This is what the Bible means when it says, "All have sinned and fall short of

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We have all chosen to run our own lives and resist the reasonable, wise, loving rulership of God. This is what the Bible means when it says, "All have sinned and fall short of

the glory of God.” Because of this rebellion, we have all been separated from God, excluded from the fulfilling love relationship God originally created us to have with Him. If we meet the conditions outlined in the Bible, we can be forgiven of our sins, re-establish relationship with Him, and have the eternal life God desires to give us.

These conditions include:

1. **Acknowledge that you have rebelled against God.** (“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom. 3:23)

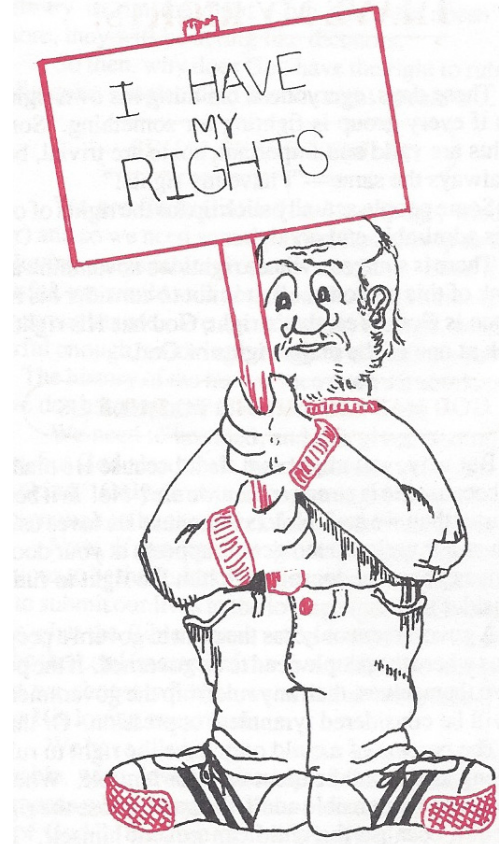
2. **Turn away from your lifestyle of selfishness.** (“Repent for the forgiveness of your sins.” Acts 2:38)

3. **Commit yourself to living the way God commands you to live—loving God, and loving others as yourself.** (“Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:30, 31)

4. **Ask God’s forgiveness for your sins.** (“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” I John 1:9)

5. **Take your hands off your own life and allow Jesus to be your master.** (“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Rom. 10:9, 10)

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