
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Does God think everyone has a right to his own belief?**

Many people hold to the idea that “*Every one has a right to his own belief!*” If this is a true statement, then everyone ought to teach this, but if the Bible does not teach it, no one should teach such a doctrine.

SELF-SURRENDER

As we begin to answer this question, “Does every person have a right to his own belief?” let us make this observation: The most basic, and fundamental of all Bible doctrines is for men to be self-surrendered and submissive to God’s will. We cannot seek to please ourselves, but God instead:

John 5:30

³⁰ [Jesus said] I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Do you hear that? Not even Jesus did His own will. Not even Jesus had the right to His own belief.

Legally speaking, then, we have a right to believe any doctrine we want to, but Biblically speaking we do not have a right to believe any and everything we want. Biblically we have the right to believe and accept only the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures:

Galatians 1:8-9

⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

No man on earth, nor any angel in heaven has a right to believe, or teach anything except the truth of the Bible.

ESUS HAS THE RIGHT

Over and over again we are taught in the Bible that we do not have a right to our own beliefs.

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Since Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and earth, only He has a right to tell us what we can believe.

HOW TO BE SAVED

Let us now apply what we have learned.

Since Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and earth, only He has a right to tell us what we must do to be saved! We cannot choose for ourselves how to get saved. Jesus has the final word on this matter!

Men must:

- a) Believe in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn 3:16)
- b) Repent of their sins (Lk 13:3)
- c) Confess their faith in Jesus (Rom 10:10)
- d) Be immersed in water to have their sins washed away (Mk 16:16).

No one has the right to say that faith only will save men, because Jesus included repentance, confession and immersion in water!

WORSHIP

Next, since Jesus has all authority in heaven and in earth, no one has the right to choose how he wants to worship God. Jesus only has the right to tell us how to worship.

- a) We do not have the right to choose the kind of music we shall use, because Jesus specified only vocal singing may be used in the assembly of the church (Eph 5:19).
- b) We do not have the right to allow women to speak in the assemblies of the church, because Jesus has already specified that the women must keep silent (1 Cor 14:34-35).
- c) We do not have the right to eat the communion once a month, because Jesus has specified that the communion must be eaten by the church every week ... and He even specified it must be done on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7).
- d) We do not have the right to choose whether we shall use individual drinking cups for the communion, because Jesus has already specified that we must use a single cup and everyone must drink from that one cup (Mk 14:22).

THE CHURCH

Finally, since Jesus possesses all authority in both heaven and earth, we do not have the right to choose what church we shall be members of!

When God made Adam He then made Eve and gave her to Adam for a wife. Adam did not have a choice of which woman to marry. He either had to accept Eve, or do without!

Likewise, when Jesus built His church, He built only one church:

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ ... [Jesus said] on this rock I will build My church, ...

Everyone who is truly saved is added to this one church that Jesus built:

Acts 2:47

⁴⁷ ... the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The church is the Lord's body (Eph 1:22-23) and Jesus has only one body, or church (Eph 4:4).

Scripturally speaking, men and women do not have a right to choose which church they will be members of. They will either obey the Gospel and become members of the Lord's church, or else they will obey their own will and join a man-made church that will eventually cost them their souls:

Matthew 15:13

¹³ But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we must admit from the Scriptural evidence before us: We have not been given the right by God to choose our own belief! God does not force us to obey Him, but if we wish to be saved, we must submit to what He has said and we must forsake our own will. We must:

- a) We must be saved by the plan Jesus chose for us.
- b) We must worship by the pattern Jesus chose for us.
- c) We must be members of the church Christ chose!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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