

## 19 Rights Christ-Followers Give Up

<sup>30</sup> “...You must <sup>A</sup> love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: <sup>B</sup> ‘Love your neighbor <sup>C</sup> as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:30–31)

### <sup>A</sup> God-Ward Rights:

- <sup>1</sup>**The right to rebel against human authority**, even if their laws are stupid, excessive and oppressive – to live free from life constraint as you deserve (1Peter 2:13-17 with Proverbs 17:11, 24:21-22; also Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 22:15-21; Romans 13:1–7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; 2 Peter 2:9-10).
- <sup>2</sup>**The right to put physical ease, amenities, or security before obedience** – to delay following Jesus for any reason – to live at home in safety and the comfort that we deserve. Or...
- <sup>3</sup>**The right to put any relationship above obedience** – to delay following Jesus for any reason – to live with the people you want, at home with family and friends that we deserve (Luke 9:59-62; 14:26-33).
- <sup>4</sup>**The right to live by our own rules**, to ignore Jesus’ word if we want, **and say we love God** even though we consciously disobey Him – to live as we feel we deserve. Or...
- <sup>5</sup>**The right to live by our own rules**, to ignore the Bible, **and say we love others** and are God’s even though we consciously hate and/or refuse to serve others – to live as we feel we deserve (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1Peter 1:14-16; 1John 3:14-20).
- <sup>6</sup>**The right to understand God’s plan** (the what, when, why and where’s) before we obey – to live in life stabilizing unbelief as we deserve (Genesis 12:1-4 with Joshua 24:1-3; also Nehemiah 9:7-8; Acts 7:2-4; Hebrews 11:8, 32-40; also 2Corinthians 10:3-5; James 2:14; also Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34).

### <sup>B</sup> Interpersonal Rights:

- <sup>7</sup>**The right to fit in with society** or embrace culturally driven “group think” – to be liked as we deserve (Exodus 23:2; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; John 15:18-21; Romans 12:2; 2Corinthians 6:14-17a; Galatians 1:10; Ephesians 2:1-5, 4:17-24; James 4:4-5; 1John 2:15-17, 5:19).
- <sup>8</sup>**The right to avoid being called names** and to have and protect a good reputation and be respected by the culture – to the good standing we deserve (Matthew 5:11, 10:25; Luke 7:33-35; 1John 3:13).
- <sup>9</sup>**The right to retaliate or get even** when insulted or have suffered – to the revenge we deserve (Proverbs 24:17-18, 29; Matthew 5:38-42; Romans 12:17-20 with Deuteronomy 32:34-35; 1Peter 2:23).
- <sup>10</sup>**The right to hate our enemies** – to the emotions we deserve (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:35-37; Romans 12:14-21)
- <sup>11</sup>**The right to hold an unforgiving grudge** and continue in combative, hardhearted disunity – to punish personal injustices as we deserve (Colossians 3:12-15; also Matthew 18:21-35; 2Corinthians 6:6; Ephesians 4:1-3, 30-32; 1Peter 3:8-9, 11)
- <sup>12</sup>**The right to sue your fellow Christ-followers** and drag them before this world’s courts/non-followers – to the legal benefits we deserve (1Corinthians 6:1-8 with Matthew 18:15-17; also Mark 11:24-25; 1Corinthians 5:12; 1 John 2:7-11).
- <sup>13</sup>**The right to end an unhappy marriage** for any “legal” reason when God has not given such broad permission – to the happy marriage we deserve (Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-9).

- <sup>14</sup>**The right to complain, argue, disagree** and live “dirty” and “dark” lives (Philippians 2:14; also Numbers 14:26; Psalm 106:24-25; Romans 14:1; 1 Timothy 6:2–5; 1Thessalonians 5:15; Hebrews 12:14-15; James 3:14–18; 1 Peter 3:10-12; Jude 16).
- <sup>15</sup>**The right to be arrogant, severe or exploitive when wielding the power of our position** or to expect or demand that others honor and serve us (Mathew 20:25-28 with Mark 9:33-35, 10:42-45; Romans 12:2; 1Corinthians 9:19; also 1Peter 5:1-7).

<sup>c</sup> **Personal Rights:**

- <sup>16</sup>**The right to express your sexuality freely** – to have sex as we want and deserve (1Corinthians 6:18-20 with Genesis 2:21-25; also Genesis 39:6-20; Proverbs 2:16-19, 5:3-15, 6:24-35, 7:4-5; Romans 6:12-14; Hebrews 13:4).
- <sup>17</sup>**The right to do whatever feels good**, to satisfy our physical appetites, craving and impulses as we please – (Romans 8:5-14, 13:11-14; Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Peter 4:2-5).
- <sup>18</sup>**The right to put ourselves first or take the best for ourselves** and leave the rest for others – to take what we deserve without a thought to others (Philippians 2:3-4 with Luke 14:7-11; also Genesis 13:8-9; Matthew 20:20-28; Romans 12:10, 15:1-2; 1Corinthians 8:9-13, 10:23-24, 31-33; 13:4-5).
- <sup>19</sup>**The right to hoard “our” money** (or any earthly possession that’s considered a “treasure”) and to purchase and own what we feel we deserve with no thought given to doing good with it or to storing up treasure to be received in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21, see 19:21, Luke 12:33).

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Extensively expanded by Pastor Kerry Krissel)