

# Yielding Rights

Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-12

L L (R 3:14-22).  
T T A  
-

A I ,

C  
E  
H  
G  
C  
A  
R  
R  
R  
P  
I

T !

T *right* *privilege. Black's Law*  
*Dictionary* :

• RIGHT: R A  
. I

• PRIVILEGE: A  
,

A C . T

T - **not** B B  
G , ,  
? T !

*Reader's Digest* carried a story about a lady who was being relentlessly pursued—and threatened with a lawsuit—by a woman who gave her up for adoption 35 years ago and now insists she has a grandmother's *right to know* her grandchildren.

Another woman is suing her insurance company because it refused to pay for more attempts at test-tube fertilization at \$10,000 a try. She'd already been reimbursed for more than \$100,000, and her doctor advised she was a poor candidate for further attempts to conceive. When asked why this 40-year-old woman didn't consider adopting a child instead of filing a lawsuit, she answered, "It's my fundamental human *right to have a baby*. The insurance company, by refusing to pay, is taking that right away from me."

What the Bible teaches about "rights" is contrary to what the world is saying. Instead of advocating and demanding rights, the Bible teaches us to **YIELD RIGHTS**.

The Corinthian Church was a problem church. They were having problems because they were pursuing their "rights." In 1 Corinthians chapter nine, Paul continues the thought of yielding the right to eat meat (8:13 cf. 9:4). Paul used himself, as an apostle (v. 1), to illustrate how he yielded personal rights to do God's work.

Paul asks, "*Am I not free*" (v. 1)? Don't I have the right to be fed for my labors? (v. 4). Don't I have the right to be married (v. 5)? Don't I have the right to forego secular employment and be financially remunerated by the church? (v. 6). Yet, Paul yielded these "rights" (vs. 12, 15-18), for a greater good: To get people saved (9:19-23).

When a person chooses to follow Christ, they must **GIVE UP** the "right" to have their own way. "*For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's*" (Romans 14:7-8).

If you want to start a **revolution, teach people their rights**. If you want to start a **revival, teach people their responsibilities**.

| <b>RIGHTS imply</b>              | <b>RESPONSIBILITIES signify</b>   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ownership—something I <i>own</i> | Obligation—something I <i>owe</i> |
| Makes demands                    | Discharges duty                   |
| I am in control                  | I am under control                |
| It's all about me                | It's all about God                |

The assertion of rights is the very incarnation of selfishness. When you demand your rights you are confronted with ***“charity seeketh NOT HER OWN.”***

***As Christians we must yield ...***

**The right to be right** (1 Corinthians 6:7-8)

**The right to complain** (Philippians 2:14; Exodus 16:7-12)

**The right to revenge** (Romans 12:19).

---

**“I have a right to hate that person.”**

- This is a violation of God’s ownership. You are saying you own your emotions.
- People excuse themselves by saying, “You don’t know what that person did to me.” Maybe not, but I know it was not as bad as what you and I did to Jesus, and He doesn’t hate YOU.
- You have no right to hate someone Jesus loves.

**“I have a right to be healthy.”**

- Violation of God’s ownership. You are saying your body belongs to you.
- What about Job?

**“I have a right to do what I want with my *free time*.”**

- Violation of God’s ownership. Time is God’s prerogative (Ps. 31:15; Job 12:10).

**“I have a right to make and spend my money anyway I choose.”**

- Violation of God’s ownership. Everything we have belongs to God (Ps. 24:1; Haggai 2:8).

**“I have a right to be angry.”**

- Anger is a symptom of one of our “rights” being infringed upon.
- The opposite of anger is MEEKNESS. Meekness is the yielding of personal rights.

- A wife is to be adorned with “*a MEEK and quiet spirit*” (1 Peter 3:4). She has deferred all rights from herself to her husband under God.
- Anger is a violation of God’s ownership. When rights are yielded, they cease to belong to us. “*Ye are not your own,*” You and I have no rights over what does not belong to us. If it does not belong to you, you have no reason to be angry.

A farmer gave his crops to the Lord. Later they were destroyed by locusts. When asked why he was not upset about it, he answered, “If God wants to feed **His grasshoppers** with **His grain**, that’s **His business!**”

Otto Koning, was a missionary to Dutch New Guinea. He tells a story that has become known as “*The Pineapple Story*”<sup>1</sup> Koning planted a garden of pineapples, but before he can eat them the local natives stole his pineapples. This happened several times and Koning became more angry with the local natives each time. He was sent to lead these people to Christ. But his obvious anger about the stolen pineapples prevented his evangelistic efforts.

Finally, he decided to give the ownership of his pineapple garden to God. One night he went out into the pineapple garden and prayed, “Lord, see these pineapple bushes? I have fought to have fruit from them. I have claimed them. I have stood up for my rights. Now Lord, I give them to You. From now on, if You want me to eat any of Your pineapples, fine. If not, that’s fine also. Since the pineapples now belonged to God, Koning had no reason to get angry when natives took them.

And sure enough, as usual the natives continued to steal them. Koning thought to himself, “See God, You can’t control them either!”

The natives noticed Koning did not get angry anymore when they took the pineapples. They asked, “Too wan, why don’t you get angry anymore?” Koning answered, “I have given that garden away. It isn’t my garden anymore. So, you are not stealing my pineapples. They aren’t mine!” The natives wondered among themselves, “Who did he give the garden to? Did he give it to you?” Koning finally told them, “I have given the garden to God!”

After thinking about that, the natives came back to Koning saying, “Too-wan, you should not have done that. You need to get it back from God! Our babies are getting sick. The fish aren’t biting. Our wives are not giving birth!” They were afraid of God.

The next crop of pineapples began to ripen. The natives encouraged Koning to pick them because they would become rotten soon. And so, Koning got some pineapples and let the native take some also. When

Koning's family sat down to eat them, he prayed, "Lord, we are eating Your pineapples. Thank-You for letting us have some to enjoy."

Soon thereafter, many natives decided to become Christians! Why? Because they saw the difference the Lord made in the missionary!

Do you have some "pineapples" you need to give to God? Those "pineapples" represent things you think you have a right to, but actually they should be surrendered to God: Plans... opinions... music... activities... relationships... money... possessions, etc.

Jesus was "*MEEK and LOWLY in heart*" (Mt. 11:29). Jesus did not come demanding His rights (Mark

*head.*”) He was born in a barn. He suffered the pain and humiliation of the cross. He yielded His right to defend Himself (Luke 23:9).

Every missionary must yield the right to personal comfort.

## **5. Jesus yielded His right to MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS**

(Luke 22:42). *“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me”* (John 5:30). Jesus placed Himself under the authority of sinful man, and man’s decisions at His trial.

- **“God gives us His very best when we leave the choices with Him.”** (J. Hudson Taylor). The rewards are great when we yield the right to make decisions to God and let Him make the choices for our life.

**SUMMATION:** Christians are bond-slaves of Jesus Christ. A slave owns nothing and has no rights. We are crucified with Christ—Crucified men have no rights (Luke 9:23).

In reality, the only legitimate right anyone has is the right to trust Christ for salvation, or otherwise go to Hell.

At a church business meeting, one deacon was demanding his rights. An old saint then asked the deacon, “Sir, why are you so intent in demanding to go to Hell?”

[www.avhughes.com/store](http://www.avhughes.com/store)

[www.amazon.com/author/hughesal](http://www.amazon.com/author/hughesal)

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Pineapple Story*, Institute in Basic Life Principles, Inc., Oak Brook, Illinois. 1978.