

THE RIGHTS OF GOD

Introduction

- 1) The desire for “**rights**” is very strong in our society
 - a) Declaration of Independence – “unalienable rights” = life, liberty, pursuit of happiness
 - b) Bill of Rights (first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution)
 - c) Many today fight for certain “rights”: privacy, education, free speech, due process, etc.
 - d) There are many things people feel they have a “right” to, or entitled to (“entitlements”)
- 2) **Right** = something to which one has a just claim. The power or privilege to which one is justly entitled [Webster] (cf. 1 Cor. 9:4-5; Rev. 22:14)
- 3) While everyone demands their rights, have we considered that God also has rights?
 - a) There are things that God is entitled to simply because **He is God!**

I) **Right of Ownership**

- A) God is the creator and giver of life (Gen. 1-2; Acts 17:24-26)
- B) God has the right of ownership over us (1 Cor. 6:19; Heb. 12:9)
- C) God has the right to destroy what He has created (Gen. 6:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:6-7; Matt. 10:28)

II) **Right of Expectation**

- A) God has the right to expect worship (Jn. 4:23; Matt. 14:33; Psa. 95:6-7)
- B) God has the right to expect obedience (1 Cor. 6:20; Rom. 12:1)
 - 1) This obedience is to be with total submission to His sovereignty (Eccl. 12:13)
 - 2) Human doctrines and commandments have no rightful place (Matt. 15:8-9)
- C) God has the right to expect the growth of His children (2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 5:12-13)

III) **Right of Intercession**

- A) God has the right to intercede into human affairs in order to fix the fallen human condition (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:9)
- B) God has the right to offer salvation to all sinners by His grace (Titus 2:11-12)

IV) **Right of Command**

- A) God has the right to command according to His will
 - 1) Has all authority (Matt. 28:18)
 - 2) His word is authoritative (Jn. 12:48)
- B) God has the right to command conditions of salvation (Mk. 16:16)
- C) God has the right to command holy living (1 Pet. 1:15-16)
- D) God has the right to command works of faith (Eph. 2:10; Jas. 2:24)
 - 1) Living by obedient faith is the only way to please God (Heb. 11:6)

V) **Right of Judgment**

- A) God has the right to absolute judgment (Acts 17:31 – in righteousness)
- B) God has the right to judge all men (2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 5:28-29)
- C) God has the right to determine the consequences of our actions (Gal. 6:7-8)
 - 1) Our “rights” are what is lawful according to the will of God
 - 2) We do not have a right to be wrong/sinful/evil and avoid righteous judgment

Conclusion

God has His innate rights, and they affect you and me directly. He has the right of ownership, expectation, intercession, command, and judgment. Do you respect God’s rights? Will you obey His will? Your soul’s eternal salvation depends on it!