

Belief? - cont.

For example, Adam and Eve did not have a right to their own belief to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3). Nadab and Abihu did not have a right to their own belief to sacrifice strange fire (Leviticus 10). Moses did not have a right to his own belief to strike the rock when God told him to speak to the rock (Numbers 20). Etc., etc., etc.

People today who say that everyone has a right to his own belief are not actually thinking. Do we really want to be a people who have no fixed standard of living to go by? Imagine the widespread chaos and confusion that would cause. Do we really want the consequences of complete anarchy where everyone does that which is right in his own eyes? Surely not.

Friend, God gives you the right to believe what He wants you to believe. God wants you to obey His gospel (Romans 1;16), be a member of His Son's church (Matthew 16:18), worship according to His truth (John 4:24), and live faithfully by His word (Ephesians 4:1).

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

I know that anyone today can have access to a Bible. I also know that there are different levels of connection that one can have with a Bible, from complete indifference to complete commitment. I want to be more than indifferent toward God's word. Like Ezra in Ezra 7:10, I want to know it, do it, and teach it. When I know it I will not be ignorant. When I do it I will not be hypocritical. When I teach it I will not be doubtful. I can have a greater commitment to God's word and I will start this week.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Does Everyone Have A Right To His Own Belief?

Often when discussing moral or religious differences with someone, you will hear them respond by saying: “He has a right to his own belief.” For example, they might say: “If he wants to be a homosexual, he has a right to his own belief.” Or, “If she wants to get an abortion, she has a right to her own belief.”

By “right”, they mean a person is granted the privilege of determining what he or she will believe; a person can decide what he or she wants to believe without censure from anyone else.

Legally, this is very true. In our country, our U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights grant each citizen many rights and freedoms. Amendment 1 of our Constitution reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

By U.S. law, you can believe what you want in many areas of your life,

but biblically, you do not have that right. According to God’s law laid down in the Bible, you and I do not have a right to our own belief. Let us examine a few reasons why this is so.

First, our freedoms, rights, and beliefs are to be controlled by a single standard, God’s word. Jesus said, “*Sanctify them in truth, thy word is truth*” (John 17:17). Paul wrote, “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). The single standard of God’s word determines our “rights”, not our own personal beliefs. We must never do what is “right” in our own eyes, but only what is “right” by God’s word (Numbers 15:39; Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; 21:5).

A single standard that determines “right” should come as no surprise to us. Think about the single standard that we have in mathematics and then consider this simple equation: $2 + 2 = 4$. What is the right answer to this equation? Four. Now, does everyone have a right to his own belief about this equation? Can some believe that $2 + 2 = 5$, while others believe that $2 + 2 = 10$? No, of course not.

In the same way, when we turn to the single standard of God’s word, the Bible, there is a “right” answer. The

“right” answers about life, marriage, family, religion, etc., are all found in the Bible and we do not have a right to our own belief about these things.

Second, our freedoms, rights, and beliefs are ultimately given to us by God the Creator. We are creatures of an all-powerful Creator (Revelation 4:11). Long before our nation’s founding fathers gave us the Bill of Rights, our heavenly Father told us what is right and wrong in His word.

Third, the freedoms, rights, and beliefs that we come up with are often not what is right in the sight of God. Mankind is limited in what he can know and do and mankind does not always know the right way. The OT prophet Jeremiah wrote, “*It is not in man that walks to direct his own steps*” (Jeremiah 10:23). The author of Proverbs wrote, “*There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Proverbs 16:25).

Fourth, our freedoms, rights, and beliefs have to match up with God’s word, and when they do not, God is disappointed. - *continued*