**Becoming the Kind of Vessel whom God is pleased to use**

**Loosening Our Grip on Personal Rights[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Portions of this teaching taken from writings of Mabel Williamson Have We No Right and from a talk by Ron Ralston given and reworked in this teaching.

Intro-Dan’s stabbing, Anna’s death, riots on the island, life threats to children

* 2 Timothy 3:1,2
* Philippians 2:1-11

As Americans, we come from a culture that says "you deserve this", or even "they shouldn't treat you that way". Our very own Declaration of Independence of the United States of America emphatically declares that we have these certain inalienable rights; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Discussions are probably occurring somewhere in the world today regarding the certain rights of children that promotes self-governing. America is replete with examples of the pendulum swing towards personal rights over and above community responsibilities. And what about our rights as followers of Christ?

We come from a society where we are told we get returns on our investment. So now that I've invested my life in Christ, what's the return? What returns do I get on investing my life in Him? In perhaps more pertinent vernacular, “What are my rights since I gave my all to Him?”

**I. Areas of Perceived Personal Rights**

1. The Right to live for myself?

2. The Right to relationships?

3. The Right to personal comfort and material possessions?

4.The Right to physical health and safety?

5. The Right to think my way is the best?

6. The Right for use of my own time?

7. The Right to being appreciated and recognized by others?

8. The Right to fairness?

9. The Right to life?

**II. Rights are Surrendered in Discipleship**

* Galatians 2:20
* Matthew 10:38
* Matthew 16:24, 25
* Luke 9:23
* E.Elliot- "Where the will of God crosses the will of man, somebody has to die."
* Jim Elliot-“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep in order to gain what

he cannot lose.”

**III. Yielding of Our Rights Brings God’s Blessing**

* Process of yielding-dealing with the yuck
* Gen. 12- God promises Abraham to bless him in order that the nations would be blessed.
* Gen. 22- Will you trust me?
* Exodus 2- A bed of woven papyrus laid on the altar of surrenderedness unto God and His purposes.
* What area did the Holy Spirit shine His loving light upon for needed transformation?

“God oftentimes invites us to the place we have no desire to be led in order to reveal how much He is truly enough for every aspect of our lives. He may have planned to withdraw the most precious entrustments in our lives taken from us. Again, this is because of His great love and mercy and His sovereign ways in our lives. God wants us to be utterly dependent upon Him. He's after our hearts. "Will you trust me?, He asks. Why do you suppose God seemingly is the God of the last minute? Can you think of a time where there was no way out except that God provide?

**IV. God’s Heartbeat on the Area of Rights**

* Ephesian 1:13-14
* John 12:24-25
* Romans 14:7, 8
* Philippians 1:21
* Colossians 1:10
* Revelation 5:9
* I Corinthians 6: 19
* Matthew 16:24, 25

**"Privileges, power, and authority as a child of the King of Kings, not rights, is what we have"-ra**

**Small Group Time....**

* Discuss the areas from the list above where you feel most vulnerable.

Spend time after you share to pray for one another in these areas.

**Rights that I consider as my own-**

"As a Christian there should always be a healthy dissatisfaction of where I am in Christ."

**Points of Application-**

1. Identify rights considered as my own
2. Transfer them to God
3. Trust God for His transforming power in those areas, through the power of the Holy Spirit
4. Trust Him for the process

**Summary**

Privileges, not rights, is what God has given us in Christ. We need to aggressively identify areas we subtlely claim as our deserved own and surrender them over to God. The reality is that what we deserve from a Holy God is Hell, yet God has graciously offered to us saving faith in Christ alone. Our role then is to guard our hearts in these areas, through the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit. If we are walking in deception in these areas the fruit borne will be an ungrateful, bitter heart. God has called you into His great purposes, adopted you as His own, and paid the greatest ransom ever to purchase your life back from the pit. He highly values you and loves you unconditionally. May you continue to walk in His ways while drinking deeply of His overflowing abundance in all ways in your life.

1. For further study, read Mabel Williamson *Have We No Right*, Brokenness*: The Heart God Revive by Nancy DeMoss,* Ron Ralston *Personal Rights (talk given in 1983, selected concepts taken from)* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)