

HUMAN RIGHTS

John 1:11-12 ... "He came to his own and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name."

Every definition of human rights defined by man is inferior, and many times the cry for "rights" is based on selfish desires or worldly principles. Only the scriptures provide the legitimate, righteous and holy definition of human rights. In fact, some of the "rights" desired by man, are in conflict with those intended by God, for man. Our verse today affirms that your ultimate right is to become a child of God. However, scripture also supports the premise that each of us has the same general rights and we should defend those for ourselves and others. For instance, the dignity of man is defined in Gen. 1:26 where God gives man dominion over creation (not over other men).

Gen. 1:27 reveals that man is created in the image of God, not in the image of other men. Gen. 9:6 reflects the principle that men killing other men outside of God's prescribed allowance for self-defense and holy wars (to fight persecution of the innocents), earns the perpetrator the same outcome...death.

The Ten Commandments illustrate the requirement for man's ethical treatment of other men. Acts 10:34 shows that God does not discriminate against different segments of the human race. Passages in Galatians 3, Colossians 3 and James 2 require Christians not to discriminate based on gender, race, cultural background or social standing. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 shows us that we are the possession of our creator, not one another.

If you treat everyone fairly, you can still be guilty of abusing the rights of some IF you do not speak out against those who abuse others. We call that being complicit; you share in the offense of others by being silent. When we reach the judgment seat of Christ, we will not be judged according to United Nations decrees or the laws of our country. We will be judged by Gods laws. There will be no separate lines at the throne of Christ for Filipinos, Americans, Arabs, or Italians with separate rules and conditions for each line. We will each be judged solely on the merits of our individual obedience to God and our respect for his creation. Equality will finally be realized at judgment when those who loved and served God will go to Heaven, and those who rejected him will go to hell.

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