

Podcast Episode Notes
Season 7 Episode 6 Relinquishing Your Rights

We Americans love our rights. We talk about them, we demand them. It's woven into the fabric of who we are. But as Christians, we need to be aware that relinquishing our personal rights is essential to living in obedience to Jesus. As we approach the end of 2023 and start thinking about 2024, ask yourself – what are the things you are holding onto that hinder you. Do you make deals with God? As the saying goes, if Jesus isn't Lord of all, then he's not Lord at all.

Scripture References

Philippians 2:5-7 "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

Related to relationships

- Servants surrender their rights to their family
- Servants surrender their rights to marriage
- Servants surrender their rights to singleness when they marry
- Servants surrender their rights to their friends

Related to the physical:

- Servants surrender their rights to finances and possessions
- Servants surrender their rights to time
- Servants surrender their rights to shelter, sleep and comfort

Related to how we are perceived

- Servants surrender their rights to popularity and reputation, position, rank or place of importance
- Servants surrender their rights to gifts and ministry
- Servants surrender their rights to nationality or denomination

Related to the intangible

- Servants surrender their rights to freedom
- Servants surrender their rights to time
- Servants surrender their rights to gifts and ministry
- Servants surrender their rights to opinions and the right to be right
- Servants surrender their rights to rights to their future

Exception: It does not mean that one does not take responsibility for the people and things in their lives

What if we don't relinquish these rights?

1. It can subtly drive our lives even to the point of mastering us – 1 Corinthians 6:12: “I have the right to do anything you say – but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything, but I will not be mastered by anything.”
2. Reactions of anger, self-pity or attempts to control.

Learn more about this topic in Chapter 2 of A Discipleship Journey: A Proven and Practical Tool for Making Disciples available at Lionshare.org/store. The National Disciple Making Forum takes place May 1-2 in Indianapolis. You can learn more about it and register at Discipleship.org. To learn more about ministry, go to Lionshare.org where you can find episode notes and check out discipleship tools for adults and kids.

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