



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

February 7, 2016

"You Can't Tell Me What to Do!"

Bryan Garlock

There has been a noticeable shift in submission to the authority of others. This writer believes there are many contributing causes to so many doing what is right in their own eyes (cf. Judges 21:25). One such factor is when parents give in to and please their children. Undoubtedly these children "getting their way" and "bucking the system" without correction creates a false sense of control and power. Even the workplace is affected. Employees who exhibit this kind of attitude have become difficult to manage. Hence companies have had to reevaluate their policies and their rules because lawsuits are issued due to employees or even customers claiming mistreatment when in fact they just did not get their way.

The progression of this attitude does not end in the home or workplace. In fact, some have had a total disregard for the laws of the land and our established government. Due to this destructive and unyielding attitude (taught by parents and peers) crime, violence, and disobedience to government officials have flourished and we have seen the true consequences brought about by this mindset.

Unfortunately, not even the church is immune. It is no longer a matter of "The battle is coming, prepare yourselves"; instead, it has long been here. It affects the mind of every Christian and thus every Christian must totally abandon this attitude or else forfeit their salvation.

What exactly is this attitude? It is the defiant, insubordinate, brash mindset that says, "You can't tell me what to do!" This response is given every time someone of authority tells this person what he or she must do. We use the word "must" because it is the strongest word one can use in speaking of fulfilling obligations or requirements of a person. For instance, one must pass his tests to graduate from school, one must stop at the red light to avoid a ticket and one must obey Jesus to go to heaven. Therefore, when one is told what he "must" do, he must not display opposition.

It would seem some don't like the "musts" in their lives. Thus with every ounce of audacity they can muster up they scream, "You can't tell me what to do!"

Reader, please consider the affect this attitude may have had in your life or the life of a loved one or friend. What has been the outcome? Where has this attitude led you or them? Finally, should this mindset ever exist in the life of a Christian? Let us examine what God has said on the matter.

The inspired-by-God Scriptures teach that "...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor. 5:10).

Northside
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock
Evangelist

Office: 937.393.3634
Cell: 478.256.0325
preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Num. 9-13
Tues: Num. 14-18
Wed: Num. 19-23
Thurs: Num. 24-28
Fri: Num. 29-33

The person who argues that he may "live his life as he sees fit" must understand that while this is may be true, there will be consequences for the decisions he has made. Therefore, "The soul who sins shall die..." (Ezekiel 18.20).

This writer acknowledges the fact that we are all free moral agents, meaning that we are free to choose how we live our lives. It should be noted however that this only pertains to the person outside of Christ. We mean that the Scriptures teach that we must humble and deny ourselves when we obey Jesus. We no longer live for self because we now live for Christ (see Gal. 2.20). He is to be the ruler of our lives with no shortage of dedication or submission (Matt. 7.21; Luke 6.46; Eph. 5.24; Col. 3.17).

It is important for all Christians to understand what it means to belong to God. Paul wrote, "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14.7-8; see also Ezekiel 18.4). Elsewhere we read, "...You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6.19). Notice that the Christian must glorify God in his or her body. Hence we are to "...live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God." This means no Christian is allowed to argue, "It's my body! You can't tell me what to do!" Instead one is to respond, "...not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22.42). Therefore, this attitude that is so prevalent within the world today ought not to be present within the Lord's church. Make no bones about it, we are not free to do as we please.

One may argue, "but you said we are free moral agents." While this is true, in Christ we give up our will for His. For instance, if we change "you can't tell me what to do" to what is actually being said, the truth of this attitude is made more apparent: "I have the right to sin as I see fit!" However, Paul taught, "...Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6.1-2) No person who claims to be a child of God has the permission to continue in sin. John said it this way, "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God" (1 John 3.9). The saint cannot do that which he does not have the permission to do nor does he have the right to tell his creator, "You can't tell me what to do!"

Finally, when a professed Christian tells an elder, a preacher, a concerned brother or sister, "You can't tell me what to do!" they are absolutely wrong in every way! God has told them what to do and has put it in written form! Further, God has given full license and authority to all Christians, especially elders, preachers and teachers to relay what God has said on any matter and all faithful humble Christians will respond, "Your will be done and not mine" (2 Tim. 4.1-4; Gal. 6.1; Acts 20.26-27; Heb. 13.17; Titus 1.9, etc.). It is past time that some brethren remember the words of Saul as he first believed in Christ: "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22.10) As one can see, Saul's statement is the complete opposite of the attitude some possess.

We must remember that our decisions affect others. Whatever we parents do our children may follow. Whatever our peers do, pressure to conform will surely follow. We must ground ourselves and our children in the will of the Lord now. We must not give into their every whim and instead seek to please the Creator instead of His creation. Once one develops this damaging and soul-damning attitude it may be too late. BG