

Does Everyone Have a Right to His Own Belief?

Introduction

1. **Attend the church of your choice!**
2. **We live in a society that allows such religious freedom that one can worship God in any manner they please.**
3. **Tolerance has been developed toward each other's belief.**
 - A. **All recognize that each individual has a civil right to his own beliefs and no one has authority to coerce anyone to believe anything.**
4. **Most people in American churches believe that there are Christians in all denominations.**
 - A. **Members of denominations emphasize that each should be allowed to worship God in the manner in which he pleases.**
 - B. **They also believe that God accepts the worship of those in each denomination.**
5. **Even though our civil government provides for the practice of religious differences - does not mean that God accepts every religious belief and practice.**
 - A. **Satan is the author of the concept that God will accept any belief and practice.**
 - B. **God has never revealed that He will accept every man's worship, just so long as he is good, honest, and sincere.**
Isaiah 8:20

The Reason Every Man Does Not Have a Right To His Own Belief

1. Why is it that man does not have the right to his own belief?

A. Because Jesus said: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18)

1) **Jesus has the power to command and man has the obligation to obey his commands.**

2) **God said that we should listen to Jesus (Mark 9:7)**

B. Jesus is the prophet of whom Moses wrote. Moved by the Spirit, Peter said:

Acts 3:22-23 "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. **Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.** 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

C. Those who will be saved are ONLY those that obey Jesus.
(Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9)

1) **The man who does not obey the Lord will NOT be saved no matter how sincere he might be.**

2. The Lord has commanded that men not add to the revelation of God or subtract from it. John wrote:

Revelation 22:18-19

A. We learn that what God wants us to do in service to Him is recorded in the pages of the New Testament.

1) **The person that is not content to abide within that revelation has departed from God.**

3. **What if someone tells you that "every man has a right to his own belief?", ask yourself:**
- A. **Does this man have the power to enforce what he's told me?**
 - B. **When I stand before God in judgment and he says: "*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*" (Matthew 25:41), because I have not believed and obeyed the truth, can the man who told me that God will accept my worship so long as I am sincere step forward and change the judgment of God?**
 - C. **Will he have the power to save my soul from damnation?**
 - 1) **If not, then you should listen to the one that has that power - and that is Jesus, who said:**

Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Bible Examples Demonstrate That Man Does Not Have the Right to His Own Belief

1. **The record of Cain's worship:**
Genesis 4:3-5
- A. **This demonstrates that God will not accept every kind of worship. God prescribed the worship which Can and Abel should offer. (ROMANS 10:17)**

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous,....."

- B. **Abel offered his worship by faith - Cain did not.**

2. **God rejected the worship which Nadab and Abihu offered.**
Leviticus 10:1-2
 - A. This shows that God's **not pleased with just any worship.**

3. **Jeroboam instituted a system of worship in Bethel, and sinned against God because his worship was not according to the revelation which God had given through Moses.**
1 Kings 12:26-33
 - A. He departed from God's pattern of worship by changing the place where sacrifice could be offered, using idols, using priests who were not descendants of Aaron, and changing the feast days.
 - 1) **God rejected Jeroboam's worship, demonstrating that he **did not have a right to his own belief.****

Things in Which We Have No Right to Our Own Belief

1. **To choose to which church we should belong.**
 - A. **Jesus only established one church. He built His church:**
(Matthew 16:18)
 - 1) **One cannot establish a church other than the one which Christ established.**
 - a) **Those who say you have the right to choose the church you want – reject the Bible statements that all men are reconciled to God in ONE body (Ephesians 2:16).**
 - B. **He is the head over all things to the church, which is His body. (Ephesians 1:22-23).**
 - 1) **There was not a Jewish church, Gentile church, and a Samaritan church. All of mankind is reconciled to God in one body!**
 - C. **The denominations of men are religious plants which the Lord will root up.**
Matthew 15:13-14

2. To choose what name we shall wear in religion.

A. Some imply that one can choose whether to wear the name Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, or some other name.

1) New Testament disciples were called Christians (Acts 11:26).

B. Paul rejected the idea that men could wear another name and still be saved:

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1) We must wear the name of Christ in order to be saved.

3. To determine how to worship God.

A. God has given men a pattern of worship.

1) Singing (Ephesians 5:19), prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), observing the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34), giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and preaching sound doctrine (Acts 2:42).

B. Some have the idea that we can change the worship to make it more appealing to the public. However, man must worship God as He directed or we cannot be saved!

C. Jesus said:

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

4. **To determine how he will be saved.**
 - A. **God has revealed the conditions which men must meet to be saved by the blood of Christ.**
 - 1) **Man does not have the right to lay down the conditions on which God will wash away his sins.**
 - a) **Jesus said:**
 - John 8:24**
 - Luke 13:3**
 - Matthew 10:32**
 - Mark 16:16**

Conclusion

2 Thessalonians 2:12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. **God made us creatures of free moral choice.**
 - A. **We can choose to obey or disobey the Lord.**
 - 1) **If we choose to disobey the Lord, we cannot choose to escape the consequences of disobedience. God has chosen to punish eternally those who disobey him.**
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
2. **The man who teaches us that *"every man has a right to his own belief"* is looking only at this world and one's civil rights.**
 - A. **God will not accept just any kind of worship (John 4:24).**

