

Rights

“We hold these Truths to be **self-evident**, that **all Men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with **certain** unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness**.” These things got me to thinking about “rights”- not as opposed to “lefts,” but as “a moral or legal entitlement.” Even according to this brief definition, note that there are a couple of types: 1) rights that are *moral*, and come from simply being *human*- these are *inalienable* (cannot be an *alien/foreign* to); and, 2) rights that are *legal*, and are derived from some status granted by *law*- to which *citizenship/legal status* would entitle one. From these things, let’s also consider...

Rights We Do Have: (to name a few- but notice that these have a *biblical* basis also)

- Civil Rights, Rom.13:3
- Legal Rights, Acts 22:25-29
- Property Rights, Acts 5:4
- Spousal Rights, 1Cor.7:1-5
- Parental Rights, Eph.6:1-3
- Right to Life, Gen.9:5-7
- Right Keep and bear arms, Luke 22:36

But there is another type of “right” I’d like us to consider- the ***spiritual*** right. Remember, some “rights” are *inalienable* (for everyone based upon humanity), and some are *legal* (granted by law to those meeting standards of citizenship).

***Spiritual* “rights” to which we’re not entitled (as *inalienable*), but have been granted (through *legal/citizenship*):**

- Forget about and walk away from your sinful past, 1Tim.1:15; 1Cor.15:9; and yet, 1Tim.1:16; Phil.3:13; **right to *spiritual life!***
- Be in presence of God, Rom.3:23; Isa.59:1-2; and yet, Heb.9:2-7,23-24; 10:19-22, **right to *spiritual access to God!***
- Talk to God and call Him “Father,” Isa.1:15; 1Pet.3:12; and yet, 1Pet.1:17-21, **right to *spiritual parentage through adoption, Rom.8:15!***
- Ask for forgiveness and blessings, Rom.6:23; Matt.18:24-26; and yet, Matt.18:27; Luke 7:42; Heb.4:14-16; 1John 1:9; **right to *debt of sin forgiveness and confidence access to the throne of grace!***

Through sin we forever forfeit our “rights” to divine ***access, fellowship, and blessings*** to, with, and from God. But through grace, love, and mercy of Christ Jesus, these forfeited rights are restored, and magnified. For this we should be eternally grateful! Think about these things this week, as you are thankful for the blessings of God, 1John 2:28!