

## A Right That Man Does Not Have

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by Bill Crews

When I speak of “a right that man does not have,” what is this “right” that I have in mind? It is the right to make his own rules in regard to moral, ethical, and religious values. That is a right that only God possesses; He has always possessed it; He never relinquished it; He still retains it. God never gave, He still does not give to any man the right to determine what is right or wrong, what is good or bad, what is truth or error.

In the Bible the prophet, Jeremiah, declared: **“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”** (Jer. 10:23). Man’s Creator, Jehovah, has the right to direct the steps of His creatures. This is His divine right, and His power and wisdom are infinite. Man does not have the right to direct his steps nor the wisdom and power essential to such an undertaking.

God’s thoughts and ways are not only not the thoughts and ways of man (and vice versa); they are also above the thoughts and ways of man as the heavens are higher than the earth (Isaiah 55:8-9). Man’s wisdom is so limited that by it he could never (by reason, by observation, by research, by experiments) come to know God or the will of God (I Cor. 1:21; 2:11). This is why God had to reveal Himself and His will to man, and the Bible is that revelation. The Bible is filled with examples of individuals and nations that stubbornly insisted that man has the right to direct his own way, lived according to that philosophy, and then suffered the awful consequences. Cain did (Gen. 4); the people in Noah’s day did (Gen. 6, 7); the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah did (Gen. 19). The nation of Israel in the time of the judges did (Josh. 17:6; 21:25). The northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah did (see it again and again in Isaiah and Jeremiah) See what Moses said to the ancient nation of Israel in Deut. 28. Read Paul’s description of the pagan Gentiles in Romans 1:18-32.

In our great nation (or should that be “once great nation”?) and in many other nations so many have succumbed to the notion (promoted by very radical and very influential educators, authors, news media people, entertainers, makers of movies and television programs, and even theological leaders) that society determines its own moral standards, that codes of conduct are constantly changing, that ethics change with changing situations, that what pleases you or satisfies you and doesn’t deprive others of the “right” to follow the same rule should be viewed as moral, legal, and acceptable.

Accordingly, more and more people are defending and practicing (1) uttering all kinds of vulgar and obscene language; (2) drinking alcoholic beverages and drunkenness; (3) smoking marijuana cigarettes; (4) getting high on all kinds of drugs; (5) fornication and adultery; (6) incest and bestiality; (7) homosexual acts of all kinds; (8) prostitution of all kinds; (9) gambling of all kinds; (10) the murder of unborn babies (calling it “abortion,” or “control over your own body,” or “pro- choice” won’t change what it is); (11) pornographic pictures, magazines, books, and movies; (12) living together before marriage or living together with no intent of marriage; (13) divorce for any cause and remarriage (please read Matt. 19:3-9). Those who make their own rules to live by are, in effect, saying, *“There is no God; the Bible is just a fraud produced by men; I will live as I please; and what I do with my life is nobody’s business but mine.”*

Civil laws forbidding these things can be rescinded, and many have been. Church creeds can be revised to condone these things, and some have been. Public opinion can be altered considerably, and it has been. But no power on earth or in heaven can make right what God has declared wrong (Isaiah 5:20) or change the fact that every individual is amenable to God for his conduct in life and will one day be judged by His Son for the life he has lived upon this earth (Rom. 14:10-12; Rev. 20:11-15). Please read these passages; be certain that you are ready for the eternity that lies ahead.