

## Age of Change/Change of Age

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by David McWilliams

In November 2018, it was reported that a 69-year-old Dutch man had launched a legal battle to lower his age by 20 years. Emile Ratelband, who was born March 11, 1949, told a Dutch newspaper that he wanted to legally move his birthday to March 11, 1969, because he identified as a much younger man. He took legal action after he was prevented from changing his age on official documents.

“It is really a question of free will,” Mr. Ratelband told the court. “We live in a time when you can change your name and change your gender. Why can’t I decide my own age?” he said. The following month, a judge in the Netherlands ruled against his request saying that there would be “undesirable legal and societal implications” if he was allowed to change his age.

Even though he lost his case, it is not hard to follow Mr. Ratelband’s reasoning. If things like one’s gender can be considered fluid or changeable, then why not other personal characteristics such as one’s age? Sadly, that is the slippery slope society finds itself on when moral standards are abandoned and moral values become subject to the whims of mankind. Chaos and confusion reign, or as the judge put it, there are “undesirable legal and societal implications.” In short, if you accept a false premise, then you can reach any conclusion you wish.

God, on the other hand, is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). His standards are not subject to change at the impulse of man. Jesus stated in Matthew 24:35, “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*”

One standard man cannot afford to change or ignore is God’s standard for determining who inherits eternal life. In order to inherit eternal life, God’s standard is that one must put on Christ, one must be a Christian. As Jesus told Thomas in John 14:6, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

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