



BONDSLAVE

PETER BELLINGHAM

11 DECEMBER 2005

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we are quite accustomed to the idea that we have rights. What is a right?

A right is the ability to **demand** specific benefits, which the law or the authorities establish in our favor. A benefit that we can **demand**.

As human beings, supposedly we have various rights. The right to life. The right to an education. The right to be treated with respect. The right to be protected by the law. The right to privacy. These are all rights, administered by the government through the rule of law. Even though not everyone gets to enjoy their rights. For example in the case of the right to life, no-one has the right to murder another person, yet at times this happens. Even though the victim had the right to life, someone took his life. However, in theory we have these rights and they are administered by the government through law.

There are many examples. The Convention on the Rights of the Child says that every child has the right to a name and a nationality; to have an identity. According to the law of Honduras, foreigners have the right to remain in the country while they obey the laws of the nation. If they disobey the laws of the nation, they forfeit the right to live here and have to leave. If you pay your vehicle tax and have a driver's license, you have the right to drive a car on the streets. Hondurans have the right to send their children to a government school. And the list goes on.

Rights are things which can be **demanded**, because they are rights.

So, before the government we have certain rights. Before God, what rights do we have?

Do we have the right to demand that God give us a certain benefit? Do we have the right to demand things of Him? "God, GIVE ME a new car." Yes or no? Absolutely not. "God, GIVE ME the girlfriend that I want." No. We don't have the right to demand from God like that.

Do we have the right to demand that He satisfy our desires for our future? "God, I DEMAND that you help me become a lawyer in the future." No. "God, I DEMAND that you send me to live in Hollywood." No. We don't have rights like that.

When it comes to our daily decisions, do we have the right to decide what we'll do and where we'll go? Yes or no? We all have free-will. And as sons of God we have the freedom to live our lives. If I want to take my family to the beach, I can go, no problem, and God is with me. But if on the day that I want to go, He somehow shows me that He doesn't want us to go, that He wants us to go somewhere else, I don't have the right to say, "Well, I'm going to the beach anyway." Why not? Well, we'll see. .

What rights does a slave have? None. He has to obey exclusively the will of his owner. Exclusively. His owner has the right to give him benefits and privileges, but this depends totally on what the owner wants to do. A slave is not a worker who earns a wage and has rights, but a slave. A slave has no rights.

Did you know that according to the Bible, you've always been a slave and always will be?

*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? (Romans 6:16 NASB)*

YOU'VE  
GOTTA  
SERVE  
SOMEBODY.

So, we were slaves of sin, before Christ set us free. If you haven't surrendered your life to Christ, you are still a slave of sin. Those of us who have surrendered to Him, **were** slaves to sin.

*For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. (Romans 6:20-21) **You were slaves of sin.** Every human being who is not surrendered to Christ is a slave of sin. A slave.*

We were slaves of Satan. Because he is the master of sin, is he not? You thought that you were free but you weren't. Many times people who don't know Christ think they're free, but they're not free; they are slaves. By sinning, you signed the rights to your life over to Satan. And we've all sinned.

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23 KJV) It says all. Everyone has sinned, there are no exceptions. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

So, we've all sinned. Including you. If you received what you deserve according to the law of God, your rights under the law of God, you would go to hell! If I live in sin, I have a right before God! The right to go to hell! The right to receive what I deserve.

**B**ut if by the mercy of God I accept His gift of eternal life, my sin is forgiven and my penalty under the law of God has been paid through Jesus Christ.

I am redeemed, bought back.

Now, if Jesus paid the penalty for your sin, your debt, you no longer belong to Satan or to yourself any more, you belong to Him. The rights you once possessed are now His, the One who bought your salvation and freedom from death. He literally bought you. You are His property! He's a friend, a Father, a Lover, but He's also our owner, if He has redeemed us. **We are His property.**

He didn't pay a cheap price to buy you back. *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV)* The price He paid for you was not gold and silver. It was His blood. His own blood. And He rescued us, not just from hell, but also from our empty way of life. The empty way of life that was passed down to us from our parents and grandparents. In my case, since my parents were not Christians, they passed on to me a very poor emotional and spiritual inheritance. God had to rescue me from the way of life that I'd received from them. Maybe it was the same for you. Jesus set us free; He rescued us from hell but also from an empty way of life. Now we are His slaves! Because He bought us.

I don't know if you've seen the film, "Gladiator." Gladiators had to fight each other to amuse the crowds. Each gladiator had an owner. At times someone else would come to buy him. They were like slaves. Jesus came and bought us back from our slavery to sin and Satan. Now we are His slaves.

*For such is the will of God ... (1 Peter 2:15 NASB) At times we ask, "What is the will of God?" Well, here is our answer: For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. (1 Peter 2:15-16 NASB)* In other words, we need to live right. As free men. But at the same time as bondslaves of Jesus Christ. As servants of God.

A bonds slave is someone who gives himself to do the will of another. He is devoted to his owner, to the disregard of his own interests. **Thank God that our owner loves us. But He is still our owner.** And we need to obey and serve Him to the disregard of our own interests.

**OUR OWNER  
LOVES US.  
BUT HE IS STILL  
OUR OWNER.**

*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.* (Romans 6:22 NASB) The wages of sin are death. We were slaves of sin, of Satan, headed for death. But now we've been set free from our slavery to sin, and we've been enslaved to God. And the benefit we receive is sanctification and eternal life. That's why I said that everyone is a slave. Everyone is serving somebody. It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but it can't be both at the same time. Everyone is either serving God or Satan. Who are you serving?

So if Christ has redeemed us, we are His slaves. We all understand that if someone has paid to buy me, I now belong to him. I no longer have rights over my own life. We don't have rights before God. We should live simply to do His will. A slave is someone totally dedicated to serve and satisfy the needs and wishes of his owner. So we should be totally dedicated to pleasing God. To serving Him. To satisfying His desires.

Last night we ate dinner with some neighbors who don't know Christ. And they kept asking us, "You must really like Honduras to want to live here." We replied, "Well, there's things about it we like, and things we don't like. But we're not here because we want to be here. We're here because God wants us to be here. It's His will. As His servants we don't have the right to say 'No' to Him. But when you're in His will, there are great blessings." **In His will** there are great blessings.

Before God, humans do not have any rights. That's where we have to start. However, as His sons, we have privileges. Later we'll look at the difference between a right and a privilege

**S**o, we don't have rights before God, and that's the bottom line, where we have to start. But as His sons, we do have incredible privileges in Christ. What's the difference between a right and a privilege? What is a privilege?

You return home from work one day, and you bring a gift for your child. It's not his birthday, it's a normal day. But you bring this gift anyway. You simply want to bless the child. He didn't expect to receive a gift that day. It's something that's free, given just to bless the child. It's not a right. It's given in love and not out of obligation. It's a privilege.

A few days ago one of my kids was complaining because he wasn't allowed to play with a certain game for more time that day. From his perspective, he should have the right to play the game whenever he wanted. So I said to him, "Wait a moment, why are you complaining? Firstly, it's a privilege that you possess this game. I didn't have to buy it for you. Secondly, if we allow you to play with the game, it's not a right, it's a blessing. So, enjoy the blessing but don't ruin it by demanding more and complaining when you don't get it. You need to be grateful that you've been blessed with this game and enjoy it within the limits that we put on how long you can play with it; but it's not a right, it's a blessing that we want you to enjoy. But the moment you begin to complain that it's not enough and so on, we'll talk about rights, and we'll talk about the fact that you don't have the right to play it. So, you choose." His attitude changed very fast. And now he understands the difference between a right and a privilege.

We have privileges in God. A privilege is a benefit given to and enjoyed by certain people. Not everyone. Rights are inherent, based on laws. Privileges are bestowed, based on the kindness and generosity of the giver.

The law gives me the freedom to drive my car in the road. If I keep the relevant laws, I have the right to drive it.

Meanwhile God's blessings and benefits are not based on law and so I do not have the right to demand them. They are based on His mercy. His kindness. His grace. So I need to be **grateful** to Him.

As His children, God give us various benefits. His forgiveness, love, provision, guidance, counsel and protection. As we've recently read in Psalm 103, "*Forget not all of His benefits*" (Psalm 103:2). And I encourage you to meditate on the benefits that God has given you, because thank God, there are many.

Once a preacher said, "Ask much, demand nothing." Ask much, demand nothing. I want my kids to ask much of me, and when I'm able, I want to bless them. But I don't want them to demand anything from me because they don't have the right to demand.

**ASK MUCH.**

**DEMAND**

**NOTHING.**

I don't have the right to demand anything from God. But I can ask, knowing that He's a generous and loving Father who in fact knows what I need before I ask Him.

So, to finish up, God wants to bring us back to this truth – we are His bondslaves. We need to remember that the bottom line is, we are His slaves. Amen? What does He want in our daily life? It's fine and necessary to have our plans. In Christ we have liberty. But if He wants something different, what are we going to do? We must understand that we're His slaves. We need to do His will.

***T**herefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)* We shouldn't walk as fools, but as wise, understanding the will of the Lord. We need to understand, "What is God's will in my life?" And at times we have to seek His face in order to discover His will. At times we have to ask Him, "Lord, what is your will in this situation?" At times we have to seek counsel from brothers in Christ. "What do you think God wants in this situation?" I don't want to be unwise; I want to understand what the will of the Lord is. Because the days are evil and we need to make the most of our time.

*Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. (James 4:13-17 NIV)* So we must have this attitude, "What does God want? Yes, these are my plans, but I'm open to Him. What do you want, Lord?" Here in Honduras people say "God willing" a lot when they speak of their plans. I think this phrase is often more cultural than heart-felt. But we need to have the heart attitude of, "God willing." "These are my plans, God willing. What does God want? Show me Your will. I am your slave." I don't have rights, but thank God I have a living Father who gives me many benefits. At times more than I can ask or imagine.

The ownership of our life has transferred from sin and Satan, to Christ Jesus. What does it mean for you personally to be Christ's bondslave? 

© 2005 Ministerio La Fuente, All Rights Reserved



Visit our Website!

[www.thewellhonduras.org](http://www.thewellhonduras.org)

Email: [info@ministeriolafuente.org](mailto:info@ministeriolafuente.org)

We want to serve you in your walk with Christ. Feel free to contact us!

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK"- JESUS  
(JOHN 7:37)