

I'll do it my way!

How many times do we not encounter these words, or at least the intent behind these words - whether it is the brash exclamation of a child or the quiet determination of an adult. These words declare to the world an independence from authority and a right to determine our own destiny.

Questioning authority is as old as the human race. Satan came to Eve asking "Has God really said ...?" And Eve decided she would do things her way rather than God's way. Adam joined her rebellion and plunged the world into sin and misery.

Today we still face the same question of authority. Many competing answers clamor for our approbation. There are the claims of objective science and of subjective experience; of church doctrines and of individual beliefs; of reasoned philosophies and of inspired revelations.

It is relatively easy to determine whose authority we accept. But another question is much more revealing:

"Why do you accept that authority?" If you say, "Because I decided!", you are in the seas of relativism, without the right to say anything to anyone else who determines things differently. If you answer the authority of another, you give to them the right to determine your view of reality.

In the midst of all these competing claims comes the absolute claim of the triune God who has revealed himself in the pages of the Bible. On what basis does God make these claims? Consider the following:

- ▶ God is the creator of heaven and earth.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"For by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." Colossians 1:16

- ▶ God is the sustainer of all life.

"O LORD, you preserve man and beast." Psalm 36:6

"In whose hand is the life of every living creature and the breath of all mankind." Job 12:10

"... in him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28

- ▶ God is the ruler over all.

"The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." Psalm 103:19

"All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth and no one can restrain his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'"
Daniel 4:35

What Response?

God indeed is sovereign and has revealed himself in the pages of the Bible, his Word to man. Many people think the Bible gives us a list of commandments to follow - whether that is the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule - so that they may live good lives and get to heaven. The Pharisees believed this and made law-keeping a precise science. But nothing could be farther from the truth! Jesus called the Pharisees "white washed tombs" and "blind leaders of the blind". God tells us that *"by the works of the law shall no one be justified"* (Romans 3:20).

God's commands address the heart of man. Righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus Christ in the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit. The new birth yields a new creature - one that hates sin and lives for the glory of God.

And how does the Christian know what glorifies God? By looking to His Word, the Bible. Here is the believer's delight, for in it he finds how every aspect of life may be brought into submission to the will of God. Indeed, no aspect of the Christian's life is his own, for he has been *"redeemed with the precious blood of Christ"* (1 Peter 1:19).

Do you acknowledge God as sovereign over your life?

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