DOES EVERY PERSON HAVE A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF?

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is often asserted that every person has a right to his own belief.

2. If the Bible teaches this, everyone ought to teach it; if the Bible does not teach it, no one should teach it.

3. This, being a religious question, must be answered by the Bible.

4. Let us now examine this question in light of the Bible.

I. CAIN DID NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF.

1. God did not have respect to Cain’s offering. Gen. 4: 3 – 5

   (1) Because it was not by faith. Heb. 11:4

   (2) Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Rom. 10:17

2. Cain did not follow God’s instructions and Jude warns about “the way of Cain”. Jude 11

   (1) The “way of Cain” is the way of human opinion.

      a. Many churches

      b. Faith only

      c. Baptism not essential for salvation.

   (2) The “way of Cain” is the way of substitution.

   (3) The “way of Cain” is the way of rejecting God’s way.

3. Cain’s works were evil. I John 3:12; Matt. 7: 21 – 23

4. Cain was serving the devil. I John 3:12

5. Cain did not have a right to his own belief.

II. NAAMAN DID NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF.

1. Naaman thought Elisha would make a display over him. II Kings 5:11
2. He thought the Abana and Pharpar rivers were just as good as the Jordan. II Kings 5:12

3. He was not healed until he did what God commanded. II Kings 5:14

4. Naaman did not have a right to his own belief.

III. PAUL DID NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF.

1. Paul thought he should persecute the church. Phil. 3:6

2. He thought he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Acts 26:9 – 10

3. He thought he was pleasing to God. Acts 23:1

4. But, he was the chief of sinners. I Tim. 1:15

5. Paul did not have a right to his own belief.

IV. IF EVERYONE HAD A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF, THEN THE WILL OF GOD WOULD BE RULED OUT, AND CHRIST’S TERMS OF PARDON COULD BE IGNORED.

1. Jesus said the will of God must be done. Matt. 7:21

2. Jesus said that the man who will do His will shall know the doctrine. John 7:17

3. Jesus prayed that all might be one upon the basis of the Word of God. John 17:20 – 21; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1 – 6

V. THE APOSTLE PAUL DID NOT TEACH THAT EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF.

1. Paul taught that there is one gospel, and it must not be changed. Gal. 1:6 – 9

2. He told Timothy to charge some “…that they teach no other doctrine…” I Tim. 1:3

3. He told Timothy to “Hold fast the form of sound words…” II Tim. 1:13

4. Paul, to the Ephesians: Eph. 4:1 – 6

VI. IF EVERY PERSON HAD A RIGHT TO HIS OWN BELIEF, IT WOULD MAKE GOD A RESPECTOR OF PERSONS.
1. Acts 10: 34 – 35; Rom. 2:11

2. God has given ONE plan for all men. I Cor. 4: 17; John 17: 20 – 21

VII. MEN TODAY THINK THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR OWN BELIEF.

1. They think God wants DENOMINATIONALISM, and that all ways are right in religion.
   
   (1) God teaches man there is but ONE church and ONE way. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; John 14:6; Eph. 1:3; II Tim. 2:10; Rom. 3: 24

   (2) Man does not have a right to his own belief about this.

2. Man thinks SPRINKLING is baptism.
   
   (1) God says that baptism is a BURIAL. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 3:16; Acts 8: 38 – 39

   (2) Man does not have a right to his own belief on the act of baptism.

3. Man thinks HEAVEN is for everybody.
   
   (1) God says it is for those that DO HIS WILL. Matt. 7: 21, 13 – 14; Rev. 21: 27; 22:14

   (2) God says the disobedient will go to hell. Rev. 21: 8; II Thess. 1: 8 – 9

   (3) Man does not have a right to his own belief in this matter.

4. Man thinks INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC is scriptural.
   
   (1) God says we are to SING. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

   (2) Man does not have a right to his own belief in this matter.

5. Man thinks BAPTISM is non-essential.
   
   (1) God says it is ESSENTIAL. Mk. 16:16; I Pet. 3: 21; Acts 22: 16; Acts 2:38

CONCLUSION:

1. Man does not have a right to his own beliefs.

2. Man MUST BELIEVE GOD. Heb. 11:6