

You Can't Tell Me What to Do!

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- “Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.” (Plato)
- “You can't tell me what to do!” is the motto of the unhappy, self-centered people.
- It takes other forms: “It's my life; I have the right to live it my own way.”

Is It Your Life?

- It is true that each person is responsible for their own decisions.
 - Gal. 6:4-5 - “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.”
 - Phil. 2:12 - “...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”
- Self-determination means we get to choose; however, it does not mean that our choices will be without consequences.

Is It Your Life?

- I can choose to make a foolish or self-destructive decision; I will never have the choice:
 - To be without expressions of concern and corrections from people who know me and care about me,
 - To void what God's word says about my sin,
 - To avoid or dismiss the painful consequences of the choice on me and others around me,
 - Or, to avert the judgment that will fall on me in the life to come.

Is It Your Life?

- While all of us may choose the course of our lives, we all are accountable for our decisions.
 - 2Cor. 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - Col. 3:24-25 - “Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”

Is It Your Life?

- All of us are independent, autonomous beings. The decisions we make affect our salvation and ours alone.
 - Ez. 18:20 - “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”
 - Deut. 24:16 - “Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.”

Is It Your Life?

- But we are not free to do as we please.
 - We belong to God
 - Ez. 18:4 - “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”
 - Our lives belong to the Lord
 - Rom. 14:7-8 - “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

Is It Your Life?

- But we are not free to do as we please.
 - We must live for the will of God
 - 1Peter 4:1-2 - “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”
 - The whole purpose of our existence is to serve God
 - Ecc. 12:13 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.”

Is It Your Life?

- While we are autonomous, our decisions often negatively affect others.
- Sins have consequences that are sometimes widespread.
 - Rom. 5:18 - “Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.”

Is It Your Life?

- Righteousness also has influence beyond the individual.
 - Rom. 4:16-17, 22-24 - “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did, and therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead”

Is It Your Life?

- The truth is that while we have a right to choose, we do not have the right to choose to sin without consequence.
- We don't have the right to make others' lives miserable with our sins and foolish choices.
- In fact, we have the responsibility to choose right, both for ourselves and for others' sake.
 - Rom. 12:9-13 - "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."

Is It Your Life?

- Even though we are all responsible for our own decisions, we are also responsible to encourage and counsel others to make right decisions.
- Parents are to train their children to do right.
 - Prov. 22:6 - “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Is It Your Life?

- Christians are to encourage each other.
 - Heb. 10:23-25 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Is It Your Life?

- When one is lost, we must work to restore him.
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
- In view of the Judgment, we must persuade others to be saved.
 - 2Cor. 5:11 - “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- God gave us life.
 - 1Cor. 3:16-17 - “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- God gave us life.
 - 1Cor. 6:18-20 - “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- God gave us life.
 - Rom. 14:7-8 - “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- Our lives are intertwined and interdependent.
 - 1Cor. 10:17 - “For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.”
 - Eph. 4:25 - “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- We rely on one another for safety, including spiritual well-being.
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”
 - Eph. 4:2 - “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- We rely on one another for safety, including our spiritual well-being.
 - Rom. 14:1 - “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.”
 - Rom. 15:1 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”
 - Heb. 12:14 - “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

Life Is A Gift We Share With Others

- It is not my life; it is our life.
- It is not your life; it is the life of everyone who knows and loves you, including the Lord.