

Rights and Entitlement vs Love

It is an interesting time, this season of Covid-19. I say season because this will end. But, for now, we need to see it out.

I have found it interesting listening to people talk about their rights during this time. It seems to me that we have become quite self-centred in our attitudes.

What has happened to us so that it seems we have forgotten to look to the needs of others or care about our neighbours?

We complained that our rights were taken away when we could not buy alcohol and seemed to overlook a child's right to be safe at home, not neglected by drunken parents or a woman's right not to be assaulted by an intoxicated man.

We talk about our right to not have to wear a mask, forgetting that it could save the life of an elderly person or someone with co-morbidities.

We are not victims in these situations, we are given a responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

As a society, we unfortunately have become an entitled people who feel we have permission to do and say what we want without accountability or responsibility.

We cast blame on others rather than looking at ourselves.

We attack first and fail to listen.

There is deep brokenness in our nation and the problems are complex but as long as we point fingers and choose sides, our country cannot and will not heal. Jesus modelled to us that we are to give up our perceived rights and seek to serve others (Phil. 2:5-8).

Despite the many challenges, we live in an incredible country with amazing people.

If we look to God, learn to love our neighbour and work together, we can accomplish great things.

If we can let go of our self-centred pursuit of comfort, humbly examine our own hearts and begin to look at each other through the lenses of love, this country will begin to heal.

We cannot change anyone else, but we can change our own hearts, and take responsibility for our own actions and reactions.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 it says "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land".

We must, for the sake of everyone living in our country, pray against the corruption and politicians who are there for their own gain.

We should hold those in power accountable, but we must begin with humbly checking ourselves.

How do I treat my neighbours and those I come into contact with?

How do I respond to those in difficult situations?

How do I react to injustice?

It is easy to point fingers at others and to say "I deserve more". Maybe you do, but how we respond to those situations is purely our responsibility.

We need to become a people who look out for those around us, help those in need, care for the elderly and the weaker among us.

So I want to encourage you to be an example to others, be leaders who take responsibility, who use your voice to bring change in your area of expertise. Let us be a nation and a people who think of others first.

Be the change you want to see.

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