

R_x
Diagnosis

ENTITLEDUDE

THE HARD WAY

needs
gratitude
generosity



Does having rights make something right?

As Christ-followers, having rights demand that we do what is right.

Entitlement is the attitude of entitlement.

Entitlement is when a privilege becomes the expectation.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When privileges become expectations, I won't experience the joy and blessings of life.

Everything I am and everything I have comes from God.

Entitlement is the easy way. The better way is Jesus' way which is the hard way.

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." ³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:35-45 (NIV)

Entitlement makes me think I deserve to be served.

The hard way of Jesus directs me to leverage my rights to serve all those who are around me.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

I overcome entitlement by choosing Jesus' hard way of serving others over the easy way of being served by others.

I must learn to differentiate between my needs and my entitled desires.

You have to learn the difference between a need, which should be met, and an entitled desire, which should be starved. Meeting a need leads to life, and feeding an entitlement leads to destruction. It comes down to this: that which creates love, growth, and ownership vs. that which creates superiority or a demand for special treatment.

The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in Doing Hard Things the Right Way by Dr. John Townsend, p 45

I will trust God to meet my needs without expecting special treatment from others.

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV)

I will deny my entitled desires and be content with what I have.

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¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength... ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:11-13, 17-20 (NIV)

Entitledude says, "I need more." The hard way of Jesus says, "I am content with what I have, and I am content with who I am in Christ."

Entitledude says, "I deserve." The hard way of Jesus says, "I'm responsible to serve."

NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

We live in a nation of "rights." The right to bear arms, the right to peacefully assemble, the right to practice religion, the right to remain silent, etc...

Often times our "rights" are something we become comfortable with and we can forget that as Christ followers that we are supposed to view the "rights" as blessings and use them to be a blessing to others.

When we view our "rights" as a way to serve others and stop viewing our lives as being the ones who deserve to be served then we honor God in our actions toward others.

So how do we leverage our rights for the benefits of others and keep ourselves from walking with an entitledude?

We choose to be content with who we are in Christ and with what He has blessed us with. We choose to do what is right by Jesus and follow His lead to serve all others.

TALK-IT-OVER:

Which of your desires have you viewed as a need when it was really a want?

How could you leverage your rights and blessings to serve others where you live, work, study, and play?

How have you been served by others out of the overflow of what God has given them?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who do I need to tell about this?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1: 1 Peter 4:9-11

Day 2: Isaiah 52: 13 - 53:12

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Day 4: Revelation 1:4-6

Day 5: Philippians 4:10-14

Day 6: Romans 12:9-13