**Your Christian “Bill of Rights"**

**Reading – Galatians 4:1-6**

**"You have the right to remain silent; any statement you make can and will be used against you in a court of law; you have the right to an attorney . . ."**

1) **You have the right to the love of your fellow Christians.**

***(John 13:35) “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."***

***(John 15:10-14) “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. {11} "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. {12} "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. {13} "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. {14} "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.***

***(1 John 4:21)*** … ***this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.***

2) **You have a right to the sacrificial service that others can provide when you need it.**

***(John 13:12-15) So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? {13} "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. {14} "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. {15} "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.***

AND…you have the right to serve your brethren in return when you have the opportunity to do so. ***(Matthew 23:11) "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.***

***(Galatians 6:10) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.***

3) You have the right to have your convictions respected by others.

***(Romans 14:21) It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.***

***(1 Corinthians 8:10-13) For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? {11} And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? {12} But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. {13} Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.***

4) You have the right to know that no one will harshly judge you in an unrighteous way or impugn your motives.

***(Matthew 7:1-5) "Judge not, that you be not judged. {2} "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. {3} "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? {4} "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? {5} "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.***

***(John 7:24) "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."***

5) You have the right to a confidence that others will not gossip about you or maliciously slander you.

***(Ephesians 4:31) Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.***

6) You have the right to be the first one to know if others think you have done or said something wrong.

***(Matthew 18:15-17) "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. {16} "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' {17} "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.***

7) You have the right to expect correction and instruction when you are in error.

***(2 Timothy 4:2-4)***... ***Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, and exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*** ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

***(Hebrews 4:12) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

8) You have the right to be restored if you have fallen away into error.

***(Galatians 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.***

9) You have the right to disciplinary action by the whole church if it becomes necessary.

***(1 Corinthians 5:9-11) I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. {10} Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. {11} But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; not even to eat with such a person.***

(2 Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15) But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us… {14} And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. {15} Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

***(Hebrews 12:5-11) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; {6} For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? {8} But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. {9} Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? {10} For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. {11} Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*** You have a right to the disciplinary love of your brethren.

10) You have the right to be forgiven when you repent and confess.

***(James 5:16) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.***

***(Luke 17:3-4) "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. {4} "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."***