**The Book of Acts** || Reality Carpinteria

Watch Out For Your But!

Sermon Synopsis: sometimes our personal rights gets in the way of what God can do through us

Themes: surrender, sacrifice, giving up

**Do you ever feel like something is holding you back from reaching someone?**

Kids World

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, **but his father was a Greek**. (Acts 16:1) [sermon title]

But = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sometimes what’s holding you back is you**

Judaizers

* Acts 15:4-5, 10-11 (ESV) **AP!**
* “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” (Galatians 5:6)
* “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel” (Galatians 1:6)

Right w/ God vs. people[[1]](#endnote-1)

Peace with God comes through faith; peace with others comes by working

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

*Righteousness* vs *rights*

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (NIV)

What are you willing to let go to see God move?

**The way forward**

Our “rights” are NOT the most important thing

Rights are like buts Millennials & Americans

Timothy gives up his **AP!**

Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, **and he took him and circumcised him** because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, **they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem**. (Acts 16:3-4)

Hence: “To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.” (1 Cor 9:20)

It’s not about your rights anymore — sometimes the path to freedom is letting go of our rights

**So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily**. (Acts 16:5)[[2]](#endnote-2)

**The good news**

Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1. F.F. Bruce comments, “[Paul] set his face implacably against any move to circumcise Gentile believers like Titus (Galatians 2:3-5), but Timothy was in a different situation. For Paul, circumcision in itself was a matter of indifference (Gal. 5:6; 6:15); only when it was regarded as a condition of acceptance with God did it involve a lapse from grace and the obligation to keep the whole law of Moses (Gal. 5:3-4). Timothy’s circumcision was a minor surgical operation carried out for practical purpose—his greater usefulness in the ministry of the gospel.” *The Book of Acts, Revised.* (TNICNT; Eerdmans, 1998) 304 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. The effectiveness of the mission and expansion of the church is here seen directly correlated to “Paul’s new missionary policy and the response of the Jerusalem church to it.” Richard N. Longnecker. *Acts.* In The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Revised Edition. Ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland.(Zondervan, 2007)959 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)