

Life's Supervillians

Jadis: The White Witch of Narnia and Entitlement

Thomas Jefferson wrote that God had endowed us with the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. From those rights our founding fathers expanded those rights and imbued us with the privileges to the fruit of those rights. But over the years there has been a movement in our culture from rights to privileges to entitlements. Indeed, many are hard-pressed to define the difference between the three. Christianity, however, looks at rights, privileges, and entitlements through a different lens. This week we'll look at the Supervillain Entitlement through the eyes of the Jadis, the White Witch of Narnia and see what the Bible has to say about it all.

Philippians 3:3–9

1. We have been given the _____ to become children of God (John 1:12).
2. We have the _____ to be children of God based on our belief and behavior.
3. But we are not _____ to be children of God.

God owes us _____.

_____ is the _____ antidote to entitlement.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Philippians 3. Paul, the most prolific writer in the New Testament, wrote this letter to the Philippians to address some specific difficulties the church was facing. One of those difficulties was the problem of entitlement and self-interest.

1. What are some of things Paul lists as his “pedigree” in verses 5–7 that gave him status among his family, friends, and colleagues?

2. Why do you think Paul bragged on his pedigree and then immediately renounces it while writing to the Philippian Church?

3. In Philippians 2:1–8 Paul addresses the issue of self-interest and entitlements with the Philippian church members. How does he expect them to get over their personal desires?

4. In Philippians 2:12–14, Paul implies that self-interest is hurting the Philippian church because of the way they are behaving. What kinds of behaviors does he address?

5. American Express had a motto that “Membership has its privileges.” According to the letter to the Philippians, what “privileges” do church members have?

6. What responsibilities do church members have?
