

# A Declaration of the Twelve Respected Rights of the Christian

For Churches, Ministries, and the People of the Kingdom of God

**Not granted by governments. Given by God.**

A declaration within The Ballad Dodecet

---

## **They Were Not Written. They Were Uncovered.**

There are things buried in the earth that were meant to stay hidden. Not because they are false - but because they are true enough to threaten the systems built on lies.

Within the world of The Ballad Dodecet, the Twelve Rights are not a modern invention. They are not a policy, nor a manifesto shaped by committees. They are a recovered declaration - rooted in Scripture, echoed through history, and rediscovered in a time when truth had been traded for convenience.

---

## **What Are the Twelve Rights?**

The Twelve Rights are a Kingdom framework - twelve unyielding truths that define what must be protected if righteousness is to stand in any generation.

- The sanctity of life
- The authority of God
- The moral law revealed in Scripture
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ

They are not permissions granted by governments. They are realities established by God.

## **Why Do They Matter in the Dodecet?**

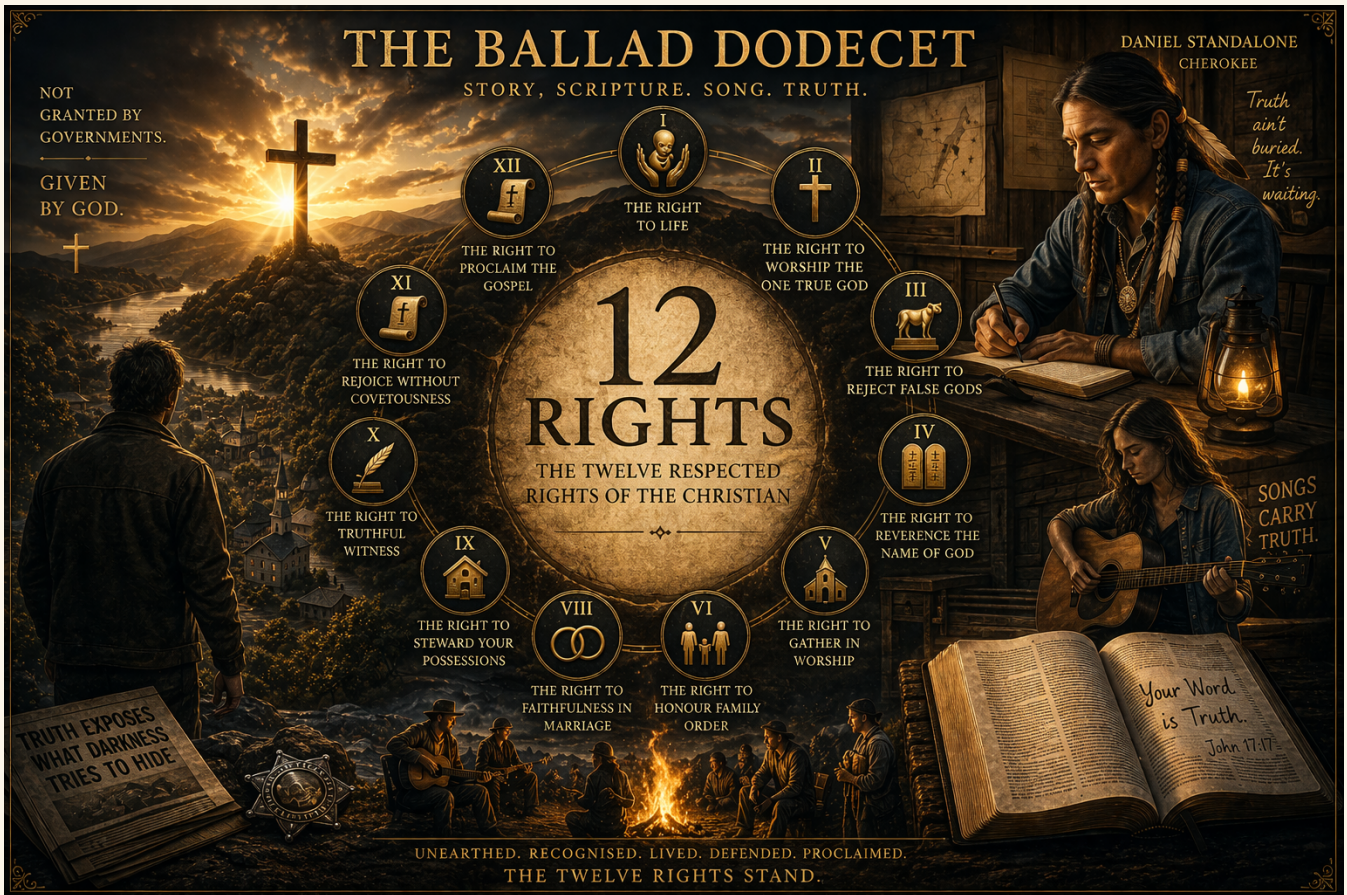
Because in this world, life is taken and buried without record; truth is bent, bought, and silenced; worship is corrupted; families are fractured; and the Gospel is resisted.

The Twelve Rights stand in direct opposition to all of it. Each Right is not merely stated - it is tested: in the holler, in the courtroom, in the church, and in the dark places where no one is supposed to look.

## **Who Carries Them?**

No one character owns the Twelve Rights. But some begin to recognise them: a preacher who refuses to stay quiet, a songwriter who feels truth before she can name it, a soldier who has seen what happens when truth is buried, and a detective who knows corruption when he smells it.

They do not create the Rights. They encounter them. And once seen, they cannot be unseen.



## The Twelve Rights and the Story

Across The Ballad Dodecet, each of the Twelve Rights emerges in conflict: a life that should have been protected, a truth that should have been spoken, a covenant that should have been honoured, and a Gospel that must be proclaimed.

These are not abstract ideas. They are lived realities, often paid for at great cost.

## Songs of the Twelve

The Twelve Rights do not only appear in words. They are carried in song. Each Right finds its voice in the music that rises out of the holler - songs of conviction, loss, defiance, and redemption.

Some sound like whispers. Some sound like war. All of them carry truth.

---

## The Twelve Rights

1. The Right to Life	2. The Right to Worship the One True God
3. The Right to Reject False Gods	4. The Right to Reverence the Name of God
5. The Right to Gather in Worship	6. The Right to Honour Family Order
7. The Right to Life Free from Violence	8. The Right to Faithfulness in Marriage
9. The Right to Steward Your Possessions	10. The Right to Truthful Witness
11. The Right to Rejoice Without Covetousness	12. The Right to Proclaim the Gospel

### Note

This is an established framework within The Ballad Dodecet - a declaration rooted in Scripture and explored across its stories, characters, and songs.

These rights are not constructed, negotiated, or developed. They are discovered, revealed, and recognised as true.

Like all truths worth living, the Twelve Rights are not merely stated - they are learned, lived, and established.

### Three Stages of Engagement

<b>Committed</b>	<b>Grounded</b>	<b>Established</b>
Learning and understanding the Twelve Rights as they are uncovered and recognised.	Living the Twelve Rights in daily life, conviction, and practice.	Upholding, defending, and proclaiming the Twelve Rights publicly and without apology.

---

## Preamble

We, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, standing upon the authority of Holy Scripture and under the sovereign rule of Almighty God, do affirm and declare these rights as inherent, God-given, and therefore to be respected, upheld, and defended.

These rights are not granted by governments, institutions, or men, but proceed from the Creator Himself. They are grounded in creation, revealed through the moral law, and fulfilled in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Scripture Witness

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” — Genesis 1:1*

*“So God created man in his own image...” — Genesis 1:27*

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” — 2 Timothy 3:16*

*“We ought to obey God rather than men.” — Acts 5:29*

## I. Rights of Creation

*That which God has ordained from the beginning.*

### 1. The Right to Life

If life is conceived, it bears the image of God; therefore, every child has the right to be born and to live.

### Scripture Witness

*“Thou shalt not kill.” — Exodus 20:13*

*“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...” — Jeremiah 1:5*

*“Thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb.” — Psalm 139:13*

*“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD...” — Psalm 127:3*

*“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed...” — Genesis 9:6*

## II. Rights of Worship and Allegiance

*That which belongs to God alone.*

---

## 2. The Right to Worship the One True God

You have the right to worship the Lord your God alone, without coercion or compromise.

Scripture Witness

*"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." — Exodus 20:3*

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." — Deuteronomy 6:4*

*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." — John 4:24*

## 3. The Right to Reject False Gods

You have the right to refuse idols, false religions, and anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

Scripture Witness

*"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image..." — Exodus 20:4*

*"Little children, keep yourselves from idols." — 1 John 5:21*

*"For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens." — Psalm 96:5*

## 4. The Right to Reverence the Name of God

You have the right to honour and speak the name of God with holiness, without mockery or misuse.

Scripture Witness

*"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain..." — Exodus 20:7*

*"Holy and reverend is his name." — Psalm 111:9*

*"Hallowed be thy name." — Matthew 6:9*

## 5. The Right to Gather in Worship

You have the right to assemble with other believers — openly and faithfully — on the Lord's Day.

Scripture Witness

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." — Hebrews 10:25*

*"Upon the first day of the week... the disciples came together..." — Acts 20:7*

*"Where two or three are gathered together in my name..." — Matthew 18:20*

---

### III. Rights of Order and Relationship

*That which sustains life, family, and community.*

#### 6. The Right to Honour Family Order

You have the right to a father and mother, and to live within a structure where honour, care, and generational respect are upheld.

Scripture Witness

*"Honour thy father and thy mother..." — Exodus 20:12*

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord..." — Ephesians 6:1*

*"Train up a child in the way he should go..." — Proverbs 22:6*

#### 7. The Right to Life Free from Violence

You have the right not to be murdered, harmed, or unjustly deprived of life.

Scripture Witness

*"Thou shalt not kill." — Exodus 20:13*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers..." — Matthew 5:9*

*"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." — Psalm 34:14*

#### 8. The Right to Faithfulness in Marriage

You have the right to covenant faithfulness — where marriage is honoured, protected, and kept pure.

Scripture Witness

*"Thou shalt not commit adultery." — Exodus 20:14*

*"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled..." — Hebrews 13:4*

*"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." — Matthew 19:6*

### IV. Rights of Justice and Truth

*That which protects dignity, property, and reputation.*

---

## 9. The Right to Steward Your Possessions

You have the right not to have what God has entrusted to you stolen, exploited, or unjustly taken.

Scripture Witness

*“Thou shalt not steal.” — Exodus 20:15*

*“Let him that stole steal no more...” — Ephesians 4:28*

*“A false balance is abomination to the LORD...” — Proverbs 11:1*

## 10. The Right to Truthful Witness

You have the right to have truth spoken about you — not slander, false accusation, or deceit.

Scripture Witness

*“Thou shalt not bear false witness...” — Exodus 20:16*

*“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD...” — Proverbs 12:22*

*“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth...” — Ephesians 4:25*

## 11. The Right to Rejoice Without Covetousness

You have the right to live content in what God has given you, free from the pressures of envy and comparison.

Scripture Witness

*“Thou shalt not covet...” — Exodus 20:17*

*“Be content with such things as ye have...” — Hebrews 13:5*

*“Godliness with contentment is great gain.” — 1 Timothy 6:6*

## V. Rights of Commission

*That which flows from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*



---

## 12. The Right to Proclaim the Gospel

You have the right to declare the saving grace found in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ — without fear or restraint.

Scripture Witness

*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel...” — Mark 16:15*

*“We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” — Acts 4:20*

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...” — Romans 1:16*

*“Christ died for our sins... he was buried... he rose again...” — 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*



## VI. Stages of Recognition and Practice

These rights are not merely to be read, but to be recognised, embodied, and defended. Their presence in the life of the believer unfolds in discernible stages.

<b>Committed</b>	<b>Grounded</b>	<b>Established</b>
Learning and understanding the Twelve Rights as they are uncovered and recognised.	Living the Twelve Rights in daily life, conviction, and practice.	Upholding, defending, and proclaiming the Twelve Rights publicly and without apology.

### Closing Affirmation

These rights we affirm as sacred, not because they are written by man, but because they reflect the righteous character and revealed will of God.

Scripture Witness

*“The law of the LORD is perfect...” — Psalm 19:7*

*“Thy word is truth.” — John 17:17*

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation...” — Proverbs 14:34*

Where these rights are honoured, righteousness is upheld. Where they are denied, injustice prevails.

Therefore, we call upon churches, ministries, and all believers to uphold, teach, defend, and live according to these truths, for the glory of God and the good of all people.

**12rights.com**