

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

82 “*Your copyright is, ‘you have the right to copy!’”*

Several years ago I stopped calling myself an *author*. Author comes from the word authority. I don’t believe I am the authority when I write. Instead I like to use the word *writer*, to make it clear I am trying to convey what I believe God has given me to say. Hopefully, it will be clear *He* is the authority, and I am simply writing what God is putting on my mind and heart.

But this posed a dilemma. How was I to allow His message to move out to others, and still keep it intact and unchanged?

Over the years I struggled. I spoke with an attorney knowledgeable about copyright laws and the proper wording to insert. He gave me the standard version that usually appears at the beginning of virtually every published book. It kept the wording unchanged, but it also kept the message from going forward unless you *bought* our copy so *we* could make any money that might come from its distribution.

Since the writings were not meant to be a money-making project, we finally settled on wording that basically gave others the right to reproduce the material and pass it on, as long as they kept the wording intact, including the copyright notice, and circulated it free of charge.

As a retired lawyer, I know we have to use the right words if we want to be “legal”. But, it would be refreshing if we could speak plainly and use the simple phrase one friend voiced to me:

“Your copyright is, ‘you have the right to copy!’”

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin