

Lesson on Lordship

Handout

We are called to follow Christ - but what does that even mean? The disciples dropped their fishing nets, left their jobs and families, and followed Jesus around Galilee. But what are we supposed to do as modern-day Christ followers? This lesson on the lordship of Christ is foundational to the Christian faith.

Introduction:

Take a minute to think about and describe your relationship with God. What word pictures would you use to describe it? Maybe friendship, father and son/daughter, shepherd and sheep, or potter and clay. The Bible is full of metaphors and word pictures that give unique insights into the relationship that God wants to have with us. One word picture that probably didn't come to mind is that of a Lord and a servant. Have you ever thought of Jesus as your Lord? You may be saying to yourself, "I don't even know what a Lord is!" In order to live the way God intends for us to live as Christians, we need to understand and accept Jesus' lordship over our life.

Read Romans 10:9:

"...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Paul, the apostle who wrote the book of Romans, makes clear in this text that believing "Jesus is Lord" is a necessary part of salvation. If you didn't confess "Jesus is Lord" when you became a Christian, that's OK! There is no formula for becoming a Christian. If in your heart you believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, if you have repented of your sins and asked God for forgiveness, and if you now live your life for God, you *have* made Jesus your Lord! You are saved! Even though you may not realize that you have made Jesus your Lord, this fact is central to your faith.

Let's do a little backtracking to understand what it means that "Jesus is Lord". Paul wrote the book of Romans in the Greek language to a Greek audience. The Greek word that we translate "Lord" is *kyrios* (curios). Only one other person in all of the Roman Empire was called *kyrios*. Can you guess who it was? I'll give you a hint: if you walked around Rome calling yourself *kyrios*, you would be arrested for treason! Caesar was the *kyrios* during Jesus' time, the ruler who demanded complete obedience and who was to be revered and awed above all others. So we see that *kyrios*, or Lord, is not just an honorary or hereditary title, but it is a title that is a source of power. Just as Caesar had servants, slaves, and an entire nation under his command, Jesus is the ruler of the Kingdom of Heaven, which all believers, including you and me, are a part of. As our Lord, Jesus demands our obedience, affection, and reverence.

Questions:

1. Describe what it means that "Jesus is Lord."

2. How do you deal with authority figures? Do you have a hard time following their orders?

3. Why can we trust Jesus all the time? What makes him a good authority?

4. There are times when we don't feel like doing what Jesus has commanded, times when we are tempted to sin. How should we respond in times like those?

As our Lord, Jesus requires that we obey His commands and follow Him no matter the cost. If we are going to obey Him, we need to know His commands. What are the orders Jesus has given us to obey?

Read John 15:9-14:

9"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command.

Questions:

1. What is Jesus' command to us? Is it similar to other moral codes that you have heard before? What makes Jesus' command different from the Golden Rule?

2. What does Jesus describe as being the greatest demonstration of love? How did he demonstrate this love to us? Did we ask for deserve this act of love?

3. We only have one life to live. If we all literally “laid down” our lives for our friends, our lives would be pretty short-lived! What are some ways that you can “lay down” your life?

4. What does Jesus promise to give us if we obey him as our lord? Do you believe that your joy can be made complete by simply loving God and loving others? How else have you attempted to complete your joy?

Conclusion:

Once we have decided to become a Christian, we have two responsibilities: to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives and then to understand and obey His commands. To accept Jesus as Lord in every situation is not easy at first, because before we became Christians, we were our own lords. As you seek to make Jesus Lord of your entire life, ask Jesus to reveal to you how worthy He is of lordship and how much joy we receive by following Him alone.