



## Introduction

When you invited Jesus to come into your life He became your Savior. That is, He agreed to pay the penalty for your sin and thereby save you from the punishment of God’s coming wrath. But Jesus wants to do more than just save you from sin’s penalty. He wants to bring about within you all of the qualities that characterize His life. To do that, He needs to have a place in your life as Master, Teacher and Chief. In short, He wants you to make Him Lord of your life.

This study is designed to help you understand what it means to make Jesus the Lord of your life.

## The Authority of Jesus

After Jesus was raised from the dead he made an astonishing claim.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

**Matthew 28:18**

- Circle the word describing the amount of authority that has been given to Jesus.
- Underline the places where Jesus has authority.

Jesus did not say “Some authority...” or “Most authority...” Think about the implications of His statement. Place a check next to every person over whom Jesus has authority:

- City Officials
- The United Nations
- National Governments and leaders
- Satan
- Angels
- You and me

Paul writes about the place of honor that God has given to Jesus.

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Philippians 2:9-11**

- Circle the one in verse 9 who has exalted Jesus.
- Underline in verse 10 those who will bow to Jesus.
- Circle in verse 11 what every tongue will say.

One day everyone will recognize that Jesus is Lord by both their physical actions (bowing the knee) and the words they say. You do not need to wait!

***We should give Christ  
the same place in our hearts  
that He holds in the universe.***

### What is a “Lord”?

The term “Lord” implies someone who rules, governs or directs. It implies one who is supreme in authority, having rights over another who is subordinate.



### Isaiah’s Prediction

The fact that every knee would bow and every tongue confess God as Lord was made clear by Isaiah.

By myself I have sworn,  
my mouth has uttered in all  
integrity a word that will not  
be revoked: Before me  
every knee will bow; by me  
every tongue will swear.  
Isaiah 45:23

This prophecy is yet to be fulfilled. However, we each have the opportunity to bow the knee and proclaim Christ Lord of our own free will.

## Jesus' Claim of "Lord"

You might be asking "What did the people who lived with Jesus think of Him. Did they view Him as Lord?"

*"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.*

**John 13:13**

- Circle the words the disciples used to describe Jesus.
- Underline Jesus' assessment of their view. (Did He agree with them?)
- Both Jesus and His Disciples were in agreement that He was "Lord".

Peter let those in Jerusalem know how God viewed Jesus:

*"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

**Acts 2:36**

- Circle the one who made Jesus to be Lord.
- When God does something there is no one that can undo it!

In his vision of the triumphant Jesus, John saw this image of Jesus.

*On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:*

*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

**Revelation 19:16**

- Underline the title written on Jesus' robe and thigh.

Paul talked about Jesus Lordship:

*<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

**Colossians 1:16-18**

- In verse 16, circle the location of the things created by Jesus.
- *Thrones and powers relate to governments.*
- *Rulers and authorities relate to individuals in positions of power.*
- In verse 18, circle His place in the Church.
- In verse 18, underline why he has been given the position of "head"

## Relating to the Lord

John the Baptist had a thriving ministry. But people started going to Jesus instead of to him. So John's disciples asked John about the change in his popularity. John knew his place.

Those who were close to him did not always understand who Jesus was. When Jesus calmed the storm at sea, they had this reaction:

They were terrified and asked each other, "**Who is this?** Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4:41

Not everyone believed the testimony Peter gave. Yet, having someone agree or disagree does not change the fact that Jesus is Lord.

The things that Paul attributes to Jesus are thought provoking. If you look carefully you will see that Jesus' Lordship is not just limited to people nor is it specifically for only the Church. What is significant about the following words?

- by him **all things** were created
- He is before **all things**
- in him **all things** hold together
- In **everything** he might have the supremacy.

<sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater; I must become less.

**John 3:28-30**

- In verse 30, circle the phrase describing John's desire for Jesus.
- In verse 30, underline the phrase describing John's coming role.
- John identifies himself as the bridegroom's friend and Jesus as the bridegroom. It was John's way of saying this is about Him, not me.

Each of us faces a similar choice when it comes to letting Jesus become Lord. Either He increases and we decrease, or we increase and He decreases.

Paul gives another insight into how we should relate to the Lord Jesus. He uses his own relationship as the example.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Galatians 2:20**

- Circle the one who was crucified with Christ.
- Frame the person who no longer lives.
- Circle the One who is now living within.
- Underline how a person is to live their life.
- Frame the reason that one would live by faith in the Son of God.

Jesus made the nature of the relationship quite clear.

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

**Luke 9:23-24**

- In verse 23 circle the three things one must do if he is to "come after" Jesus (make Him Lord).
- In verse 24, underline the result of trying to save your life.
- In verse 24, frame the result of losing your life for Jesus.

The statement Jesus made appears to be illogical. But saving our life is the very thing Jesus came to do. He is simply saying that we must rely on Him to give us life. It is not something we can do ourselves. Anything we do as an effort at life will result in failure. Letting Jesus have His rightful place as Lord is the only intelligent action a Christian can make.

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***He is no fool  
who gives up what he cannot save  
to gain that which he cannot lose.***

***Jim Elliott***

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Denying self is to be a daily thing. Nothing is more stubborn than "self". It is the part of us that clamors to be recognized, honored and esteemed.

Denying self is something that each must do for himself. God will give you strength to make the decision to deny self, but it is ultimately something that only you will be able to do for yourself.

To deny self is to die to self.

## Practicing Lordship

Paul's personal commitment offers a glimpse of what it means to make Jesus Lord.

<sup>8</sup> *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

**Philippians 3:8-9**

In verse 8:

- Circle the amount of loss Paul endured.
- Underline that which offered surpassing greatness.
- Frame the term Paul uses to describe the things he lost.

In verse 9:

- Circle the kind of righteousness Paul desired.

When we make Jesus Lord, we give Him authority over everything we possess and own. Paul considered all of his things “rubbish” compared to the worth of knowing the Jesus as Lord.

Given that Jesus can rightfully claim the title of Lord, He asks a searching question:

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

**Luke 6:46**

- If someone calls Jesus “Lord”, underline the response that Jesus expects.
- Does Jesus have the right to be obeyed? Why or why not.

Jesus gave a clear direction concerning what things should have 1<sup>st</sup> place in our life.

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

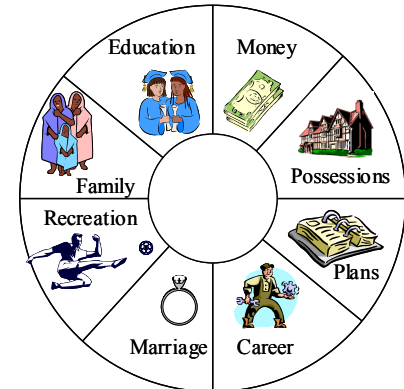
**Matthew 6:33**

- Circle the two things that we should seek first
- Underline the results that will occur when we put first things first.

The context of the preceding verses lists food and clothing as things that God promises to provide. Jesus claims that if we make Him and His kingdom first, God will care for those needs. Saints of the past have proven the trustworthiness of the claim. All that is required on your part is the commitment to seek Him first and then the faith to follow through.

Each person has a control center to their life. The things we pursue are all managed from the control center.

The following diagram identifies many of the major areas of pursuit in a person's life.



The control center is in the middle of the diagram. The pursuit that occupies the center will determine the importance of the other pursuits.

- For instance, if money is in the center, then a person will probably want to get an education (so they can earn more money).
- They may choose not to marry because marriage can be expensive.
- The car they drive (if they own one at all) will probably be a very inexpensive one, because cars tend to be poor investments.
- There would be little time for recreation, because that does not earn money.
- And so on with each of life's major pursuits.

You can take any of the other pursuits and place them one at a time in the middle to determine how much importance the non-central pursuits would have.

**Summary**

- Jesus has been given authority over every thing, in heaven or on earth.
- God has promised that every knee will bow before Jesus.
- Those who lived with Him called Him Lord.
- He is the head of the Church, having supremacy in everything.
- Letting Jesus be Lord involves letting Him increase in your life.
- Jesus called us to deny our selves and take up our cross daily. Denying self is the way to finding life.
- Paul set an example of making Jesus Lord by willingly suffering the loss of “things” while gaining Christ.

**Application**

Jesus wants to have the pre-eminent place in your life. Pre-eminent means higher than anything else or anyone else. He wants you to allow him to direct the affairs of your life.

There is an easy way to know whether some aspect of your life is yielded to Jesus’ authority as Lord. Ask yourself this question:

***If He asked me, would I be willing to give up my rights in that area of life?***

For instance, if he would ask me, would I be willing to give up my right to get married? Or if he would ask me, would I be willing to give someone the money I had been saving for my own use?

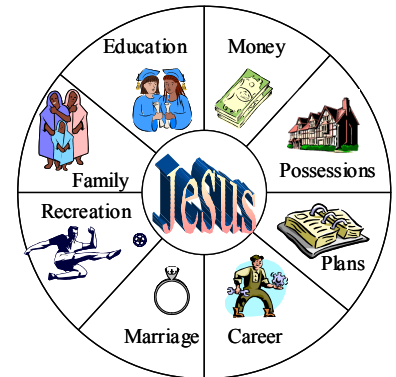
Place a checkmark in the box next to each area of life that would be difficult to give over to the Lordship of Jesus:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Getting an education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Getting married
<input type="checkbox"/>	My career
<input type="checkbox"/>	My clothes
<input type="checkbox"/>	My desires
<input type="checkbox"/>	My entertainment and free time
<input type="checkbox"/>	My friends and associates
<input type="checkbox"/>	My goals
<input type="checkbox"/>	My money
<input type="checkbox"/>	My plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	My possessions (car, furniture, house, equipment)
<input type="checkbox"/>	My time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	The food I eat
<input type="checkbox"/>	The place where I live
<input type="checkbox"/>	The things I choose to read

Jesus wants to guide every aspect of your life. But He will not force you to give up anything. Lordship is always a voluntary act.

For each item you checked, ask God to help you yield that aspect of your life to Jesus’ Lordship.

When Jesus comes into your life, He wants to be in the center.



Then all of the pursuits of life are related to Him as the central control.

- If He wants, I'll get married.
- If He wants, I'll earn money.
- If He wants, I'll get an education.
- If He wants, I'll have a family.

All of the aspects of my life are tied to His desires and plans.