

# The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Suppose you bought a new car from someone. One day you go out to get in your car and it's not there! It turns out that the previous owner kept a copy of the key and was using your car from time to time—and he didn't seem to think there was a problem. He would even wave to you as he brought the car back. Any time you wanted to go somewhere, you never knew if the car would be available. How would that make you feel?

That's how we treat Jesus. He purchased us with His blood. Yet we regularly take our lives out for scenic drives. Sometimes we even go places that are dark and ugly. Jesus wants to use us, but we are not available. How do you think He feels about it.

The real question is, "Whose really running your life? Who is the Lord of your life?"

**Luke 6:46-49** — "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great." (NKJV)

Are you having trouble weathering the storms of life? Maybe this is why.

Do you have places in your life that have not been turned over to Jesus, yet? If you decide which parts of your life Jesus gets to rule over and which parts you reserve for yourself, who is the one really in charge? Jesus is not really Lord of your life—you are!

 **What does Lordship mean to you?**

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## Jesus is Lord by Hereditary Right And Preeminence

### *Jesus is God by nature*

**John 1:1-4** — In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Jesus always existed. He was not created.

**Hebrews 1:8** — But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Jesus, the Son, is addressed as “O God.”

**Colossians 2:9** — For in Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

All the fullness of God is resident in Jesus.

**John 5:17-18** — But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

The Jews understood exactly what Jesus meant.

**John 10:30-33** — I and My Father are one.” Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

 **Is Jesus God?**     yes     no

### *Jesus gave His life to give us life*

**Romans 3:23-24** — for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Everyone is guilty of sin.

**Romans 6:23** — For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our sin earns wages—death!

**1 Peter 2:24** — who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.

Jesus literally took our individual sins in His own body on the cross, and died the death that we deserved.

**Ephesians 2:1, 4-5** — And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, — But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

We were dead because of our sin, but Jesus made us alive!

### ***Jesus is worthy to be Lord***

**Romans 14:9** — For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The resurrection demonstrates the authority and lordship of Jesus over every area of life and death.

**Colossians 1:16-18** — For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Jesus has superiority over everything.

**Revelation 5:12** — saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

## **What does it mean for Jesus to be “Lord”?**

### ***To do what Jesus says.***

Jesus expects us to do what He says.

**Luke 6:46** — “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Jesus made it clear that for Him to be truly Lord, I must do what He says. It is not optional!

 **How do we determine if Jesus is Lord according to Luke 6:46?**

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If you think that Jesus is Lord, but you do not do what He says, then you are only deceiving yourself.

**James 1:22** — But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

 **If we call Jesus “Lord,” but don’t do what He says, we are \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_.

So let’s see how well we are doing when it comes to some things that Jesus said.

***Jesus said to love one another.***

**John 15:12** — This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

***Jesus said to forgive others.***

**Mark 11:25** — “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

***Jesus said to take up your cross and follow Him.***

**Matthew 10:38** — And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

***Jesus said to proclaim the good news of God’s Kingdom to everyone.***

**Mark 16:15** — And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

This is not just for preachers. We must all tell others about God’s solution for our spiritual deadness.

***Jesus said to make disciples, teaching them to do what He says.***

**Matthew 28:19-20** — Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

We are commanded to teach others how to truly make Jesus Lord of their lives.

So what else is required for Jesus to be Lord of my life?

***To run my life consistent with His goals and character.***

How can Jesus truly be Lord of my life if I live in a way that is inconsistent with His goals and character? Am I doing things He would never do?

We must start by knowing what are Jesus’ goals and character. The Bible is full of them, but here are a few examples.

### ***Jesus' Goals***

Goals are the end results toward which your efforts are directed. Jesus' work is done with specific end results in mind. We need to understand His goals so we can get in step with His work.

#### **Search for and save those who are lost.**

**Luke 19:10** — for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

#### **Obey the Father's will.**

**John 5:30** — I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

**John 5:19** — Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

#### **Bear witness to the truth.**

**John 18:37** — Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

#### **Destroy the works of the devil**

**1 John 3:8** — He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

### ***Jesus' Character***

Character involves who Jesus is and how He thinks. Things we do because of character are done because they are consistent with who we are and how we think. They are not done simply to achieve a certain goal or result.

#### **Self-sacrificing love**

**John 15:9-13** — “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide [live] in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

**Matthew 20:25-28** — But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your

servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

What about us? Do we look out for ourselves first? If there are only a few pieces of your favorite cheese cake, do you rush to the front of the line to be sure you get a piece? Looking out for our own interest before others is inconsistent with the character of Jesus.

**Philippians 2:3-5** — *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

### Faithful

**2 Timothy 2:13** — If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Jesus always does what He says. How about you? Can people always count on you to do what you say you will do—no matter what? Jesus is faithful even when we are not faithful. Do you feel justified to break your word when the other party break his?

### Truthful, Honest

**Luke 20:21** — Then they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth:

Jesus never told a little white lie. How about you? Any untruth or dishonesty is inconsistent with the character of Jesus.

### Holy

**Mark 1:24** — saying, “Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

**1 Peter 1:15-16** — but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

Jesus is holy by nature (He is God), but He is also holy by character (how He thinks and what He does). To be holy is to have no place for impurity or evil—no mixture.

But we sometimes dabble in sin—just a little. We often have places in our lives that are closed off from the light, and we secretly visit those places from time to time. That is inconsistent with the character of Jesus.

 **For Jesus to be Lord of my life, I must live in a way that is consistent with His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

## How Can We Truly Make Jesus Lord?

Lordship, at least for now, is something that must freely be given. It is a loving response to the One who forgave your sins and made a way for you to be adopted into God's family. It is a life-long process of growth, not a one-time decision or event.

### Learn/Know

**Matthew 11:29** — Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

It is hard to make Jesus Lord if you don't study to learn...

1. Jesus' commands
2. Jesus' goals
3. Jesus' character

So, for Jesus to be Lord, you must be regularly and effectively studying the Bible.

### Obedience

Obedience is expected. You do not belong to yourself. You were dead in sin and destined for destruction. Jesus purchased you with His death on the cross. He has every right to expect our full obedience to His will.

**John 14:15** — "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Your actions show what you truly believe! If you say that Jesus is Lord, but don't obey His will, then you prove that you don't really believe that Jesus is Lord. That is why Jesus asked, "why do you call me Lord and don't do what I say?" He knew why—because our disobedience proves that He is not Lord. His question was not to solicit information, it was to point out that our actions belied our claims. And that was not to condemn us, but to correct us.

Remember! If you think that Jesus is Lord, but you do not do what He says, then you are only deceiving yourself.

### Deference

What do you want? Often, we are most interested in what we want in a particular situation. But how often do we ask, what does Jesus want?

**Luke 22:42** — saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

**James 4:13-16** — Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Yield! At a yield sign, we are expected to allow the other traffic to go first. Since Jesus is Lord, we are expected to yield our rights and expectations to Jesus, granting Him the right to “go first.” That means that in every situation, we choose to do what Jesus wants over what we want.

## Divided Loyalties

Lordship is an all or nothing proposition.

**James 4:7-10** — So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. (NLT)

We tend to compartmentalize our life—typically into *spiritual* parts and *practical* parts. Then we let Jesus be Lord of the *spiritual* parts (church, prayer, Christian friendships, etc.). At the same time, we retain lordship over the *practical* parts (home, work, entertainment, secular friends, etc.). As a result, we live one way around Christians and another way in the world. There is a biblical term for this: *hypocrisy!*

Jesus expects to permeate every part of your being and life. It is a process, but we must be actively engaged in turning over all territory to His rule and reign.

## So What Do We Do?

If you are like me, there are areas in your life where Jesus is not Lord.

### **Can be due to...**

**Ignorance** – *oops! Guess that excuse is gone!*

**Distraction** – *Big one! Too busy with life—even Christian “things.”*

**Outright rebellion** – *Extremely dangerous!*

**1 Samuel 15:23** — For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry. ....”

Whatever the case...

### **Repent**

Ask forgiveness for stealing what rightly belongs to Jesus—Lordship over your life. He purchased your life, and it does not belong to you!

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** — Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

 **Why can Jesus demand to be Lord over all of you?**

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**Renew**

Renew your commitment to the lordship of Jesus in every area of your life. *“If Jesus is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all!”*

You must aggressively pursue making Jesus Lord for your entire lifetime.

**Romans 12:1** — I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Trouble with living sacrifices is that they keep crawling off the altar.

**Review**

Regularly review Jesus' instructions, goals, and character in the context of your life. (See verses above.)

**Restore**

Do what's necessary to restore Jesus as the true Lord of all your life. There is room for only one person at a time on the throne of your life. So get off the throne and let Jesus be Lord!

Make changes now—don't wait until later.

**Acts 2:36** — “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

**Conclusion**

Have you truly confessed Jesus as Lord in your life? Or are you simply looking to Him to save you from bad stuff in the future?

People sometimes accept Jesus as Savior for nothing more than fire insurance. Just in case there is a hell, they get “saved.” But then their lives are not much different than before. They will do just enough to keep God from getting too mad at them. They go to church—at least sometimes. They try to clean up their lives—at least a little. And they focus on their good intentions, even though they seldom follow through. “God knows my heart....”

Everyone has good intentions! Having good intentions is nothing! “The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.” God is not impressed by your good intentions. Obedience to God's will is what changes you and changes the world around you.

For now, your obedience is a free choice. You can choose to make Jesus Lord of your life, or you can be lord. But a day is coming when that will change. Do it now! Don't wait until it is too late!

**Philippians 2:10-11** — that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Today is the day to make Jesus Lord of your life. Tomorrow might be too late. I hope none of us hear Him say, "Why did you call me 'Lord,' but didn't do what I said?"

## Response to Truth

 **What do I need to do for Jesus to truly be Lord of my life?**

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*personal response; yes; whether or not we do what Jesus says.; deceiving ourselves; goals and character; He bought you with a price and you are not your own.; personal response.*