

## **“Living Under the Lordship of Christ”**

**Col. 1:15-20**

### **Intro**

How is it that today you can have so many people who profess to be a Christian and yet show no evidence in their life? Could it be that so many today have received Jesus as Savior (or at least think they have) but have not made Him Lord? Could it be that some have truly been saved, as we learned in week 1 of this series, they have invited him into their home so to speak but really not allowed him to move from room to room and make the house what He wants it to be?

Know anyone that claims to be a Christian but their life really doesn't show much evidence? If they were arrested for being a Christian there would not be enough evidence to convict them? Well, here is what this message is all about:

### **Central Truth: Being a follower of Jesus involves increasingly making Him lord of our lives.**

This is why:

**Luke 9:23** if anyone wishes to come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me

**Mt. 10:38-39** he who wishes to find his life must loose it

**Luke 18:18-30** rich man: must sell all

When Jesus called his disciples he called them to leave and follow

**Rom. 12:1-2** presents your whole selves living sacrifices

**TS** I am going to make several points really fast that lay the foundation, and then I will get more specific in what it means for Jesus to be the lord of our lives. The most foundational point on this topic we can make is this:

#### **1. Lordship is a response to who Jesus is and what He has done for us.**

This is very clear in **Col. 1** where Paul talks about who Jesus is and the authority that He has .... And then

**v. 18** so that ... Wow.

Why does Jesus deserve to have first place in our lives? Because He is

- **God.** He has a divine right over our lives.
- Our **creator** and as the One who created you, He knows you best and knows what is best for you and therefore, putting Him first is the best thing for you.
- He is **all powerful** and is the only one who can powerfully take care of you and deal with stuff in your life that is bigger than you.
- He is **all knowing.** He not only knows you best but knows all. He knows the future and therefore the center of His will is the place where there is the most joy and freedom and protection from evil that will try to come to you and me.

Most of all because:

- Jesus **died for you**. He purchased you with His blood and therefore **1 Cor. 6:20** we have been bought with a price; therefore, glorify God with your body. **Rom. 12:1-2** I appeal to you on the basis of God's grace to present your lives a living sacrifice.

Why would you not want Him to be lord of your life?

**Quote** by Wm. McChesney: martyrd in 1964 when he was a missionary in the Congo. He said:

"If he be God and died for me, no sacrifice too great can be  
For me, a mortal man, to make; I'll do it all for Jesus' sake.  
Yes, I will tread the path He trod; no other way will please my God;  
So, henceforth, this my choice shall be, my choice for all eternity."

Congo Martyr: William McChesney (1936-1964)

Jesus gave His all for us; therefore, we should give our all to Him.

I am convinced that if people struggle with giving Him their all, it has a lot to do with not knowing who He is – His true nature. When you realize how good He is and how wonderful He is, you do not withhold things from Him.

**TS** So, how does lordship occur in our lives? Point 2:

**2. Lordship is a partnership between God and us.**

Listen carefully, this is very important. Ultimately life change occurs by the grace and power of God. We cannot save ourselves and we cannot ultimately change our own heart. Only God can. Lordship is a work of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is ultimately a work of God. But this doesn't mean we just sit in our easy chair and wait for it to happen.

**Col. 2:6** how did you receive Him? His power and your response. Partnership. Same with walking it out.

We are called to do certain things in order to grow in maturity and experience Christ as master of our lives. We are called to obey Him. We have to submit to Him and say "yes" to Him and seek Him. We are called to repent when we sin. And all along His Spirit is working to complete the good work He began in us: **Phil. 1:6**

**Phil. 2:12-13** says it all: work out your salvation .... Our part .... For God is at work ... God's part.

**Phil 2:12-13**

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-continue to **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling, 13 **for it is God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**TS** But Pastor David, this is hard. It is not easy to make Him lord of our lives. I know and that is why this next point:

**3. Lordship is a continual process.**

We do not become mature overnight. It takes time. It all begins when we receive Christ and is to be a continual process of becoming more and more like Jesus.

**v. 18** so that in everything He might .... He might. He may or may not in your life, depending upon how much you cooperate with the process. And that is why throughout this book Paul is admonishing the church at Colosse to be involved in this process:

**2:6 ...    3:1 ...    3:5 ...    3:8f**

It begins at salvation and continues from there. It begins the moment we receive Christ and is to grow from there. Each week we go to this candle and celebrate people coming to know Jesus. And we are going to do that now:

**Candle Lighting** .... Now the key is: for everyone who raised your hand, just know that this decision was life changing and yet it is just the beginning. Justification begins the process of sanctification.

Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

**Dr. Wayne Grudem (*Systematic Theology*, p. 746)**

(It takes good decisions. It involves obedience. It includes saying “NO” to temptation and sin. It involves repenting when we do sin. It requires blood, sweat and tears. And let's be honest and forthright: it is not easy. I spoke Thurs. PM at CCC and I told the college students this: Living as a fully devoted follower of Christ is the most difficult life in all the world: Think about it: seeking to have an intimate relationship with a God you cannot see; trying to live a holy life in a very unholy society; saying no to temptations that can really appeal to your flesh; basing your life and conduct on a book that is mocked every day in our world; and not having many others around you that really seek to take the Christian life seriously. It is not easy. And that is why we need the power of the Holy Spirit to pull it off.

**TS** And because it is not easy this is why the body of Christ, the local church is so important and why connection beyond the Sun. service is so important, and that leads to our next point:

**4. Lordship involves the help of others.**

We need others to come alongside of us in the journey. We are not made to make it alone. In order to see Jesus be lord of our lives, we need others to help us, to encourage us, hold us accountable, support us, speak the truth in love to us ....

**v. 18** interesting that in the context of lordship Paul mentions the church here! This is why we need the body of Christ, each other, and why we need to be connected in a church beyond just this service.

**Appl.** This is one reason we provide things like ABFs ... and why we are expanding the menu of our ABFs, to provide more opportunities for you to learn and grow, with others .... This is why believe so strongly in small groups around here... biblical truth and relational support for personal transformation!

### **Biblical Truth + Relational Support = Personal Transformation**

**Quo:** Larry Crabb: Lifechange most often occurs when truth is shared in the context of a relationship.

**Chall.** Are you connected with others in a way that helps you experience the lordship of Christ??? If so, thank God for those people; if not, why not?

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**TS** Alright, hold on folks because now we are going to get to the nitty gritty aspect of lordship. Final point:

#### **5. Lordship is to extend to every area of our life.**

**Col. 1:18** “first place in everything”

**Wow. Everything!** That’s pretty challenging. But I thought I could just keep this church and spiritual and Jesus stuff in that corner category and not have to deal with it except every now and then, you know Sundays and Christmas and Easter. First place in everything?

**Jesus said** if anyone wishes to come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.” Daily. Death to self and yes to Jesus.

**Quo** Detrick Bonhoefer, that great Lutheran theologian who resisted the Nazis in WW2 said: Jesus bids us to come and die with Him.

Let me show you a diagram:

#### ***Camera on the drawing of what it means for Jesus to be lord.***

Many view their lives this way .... Here is “ME” and Jesus is one of many areas (family, money, hobbies, job, friends, .....), but all pretty equal. But here is what lordship means: .... Jesus at the center and lord of all.

To get from here to here is not easy and doesn’t happen overnight. It is messy at times. We experience many hardships and setbacks and roadblocks. Often 3 things are hindrances: painful issues in our past and properly understanding the goodness of God and pride and stubbornness/flesh.

One of my favorite treatments of this topic of lordship is the little booklet called ***My Heart Christ's Home***... (it is available for sale today at the bookstore) and what I am about to show you comes from this little booklet so watch closely.

### ***camera on me when I go to a room?***

When we receive Christ it is like opening the door of our lives and inviting him in to our home or our life. This is what the candle lighting (*point to candle*) is all about:

#### **Door to open/prayer room door**

**Rev. 3:20** he comes in to fellowship/dine with us and to begin to take control and charge of our home/life.

Once Christ is in our life, being a follower of Jesus involves allowing Him to freely move from room to room and make adjustments as He sees fit. Again, this is where our knowing who He is and being confident in His character and goodness is so important. Because we must trust Him to do with our rooms what He wants.

**Quo C.S. Lewis** in the *Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe* said ‘God is not safe but He is good.’ He is not safe in that He may and probably will want to do things in some of our rooms that are neither easy nor comfortable for us, but He is good and whatever changes He wants to make are the best overall! If we really know Him, we will believe this.

**TS** One of the first things God wants to establish in our lives is time with Him, so that we are getting to know Him better and better through the Word and prayer

#### **Living Room - Chair next to a recliner (with lamp next to it?) and bible on the chair**

Oh, that is what the living room is for. This is where Jesus wants to meet with me in a special way each day. I'm just beginning to realize that. Many days I have walked past this place in a hurry and busy and He has been sitting right there waiting for me but I just didn't stop and make time (*pick up the Bible*). Now I realize that lordship means that I spend some quality time each day. That sounds great. Lord, help me get up a little earlier each day, Lord in order to spend this special time with you.

**TS** The next room is the:

#### **Library: bookshelf with books, magazines, and DVDs on the shelf**

This represents our thoughts life and what we bring into our mind or expose ourselves to: books and magazines and TV shows and movies we watch. *Walk to shelf*:

*Oh, here is some things that definitely do not please God ... magazine with X on it? This movie needs to go (video) ... TV guide - soap operas? that certainly do not enhance our walk with Him; all that does is cause you to compare and get envious .... You know what? I don't want to be thinking about this stuff any more. Lord, let's partner together in getting rid some of this stuff and as I put it off, help me to put on the pure and good stuff, like your Word and things that draw me closer to You. You know, this is not going to be easy but I can already see that it is going to be good.*

**Col. 3** put off the old and put on the new (*take something off and put the Word on*)  
**Col. 3** set your mind on the things above

**TS** the next room has to do with our **social life**:

**Rec Room: Table holding a racket and balls and a sport coat laying across the table**

*Grab the props, put on the jacket and pretend to be going out the door*

The people we hang out with and do things with. How important it is the company we keep. We have to ask ourselves: do they help me get closer to God or do they pull me away from the Lord? Am I bringing them up or are they pulling me down?

*Pretending to be talking to Jesus:* Lord, I am going out tonight with some of my friends. I will see you later. What? You want to go with me? I know I invited You into my home, but I didn't know it would mean you go with me everywhere. I don't think you would really enjoy yourself tonight. Just stay here and I will check back with you later ...why? Well, after some tennis we are going some places and doing some things that I don't think you would like. We're going to be at a bar and you know what happens there .... Then why am I going? You know, that's a good question. ... Perhaps I need to stay here with you or do something that you would enjoy coming with me to.

**Col. 3:5-8**

(Prov. Bad company corrupts good morals.

(1 Jn. 2:15) do not love the world....

### **Picture of my family (camera on this)**

**TS** Speaking of relationships, a huge one for all of us is our family: whether our spouse and kids or our relationship with our parents or other relatives.

Sometimes it is hard to really live out Jesus being lord of our families – those are the people who know us the best and see all of our faults and sometimes we just feel like such hypocrites that we almost stop trying to live for Christ at home, but consider what this book of Colossians says in:

**Col. 3:18**

**Col. 3:19**

**Col. 3:20**

**Col. 3:21**

There's a lot there.

And then Jesus says in Luke 14 that He is to come before even the closest of family relationships:

**Luke 14:26-27** "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Reminds me of an old Keith Green song:

**Keith Green song** (*hold picture of family during song*)

**TS** Now, let's go to the dining room. I love to eat.

**Dining Room: table with settings on it** *Sit at table with fork in hand*

This room represents my **desires and appetites**. What I am really hungry for and strive after to make me happy and fill me up? For many this is success or money, material things, sex, status, prestige. Some today are addicted to spending or buying things, especially when they are stressed ... we are constantly tempted with the things the world says will make us happy, but they actually only leave you still hungry and not satisfied, because God hasn't wired us to get filled by these things.

**Jn. 4:34** Jesus said My food is to do the will of Him who sent me. God calls us to focus on the eternal instead of just the temporal and to lay up treasures in heaven and not treasures on earth.

Jesus wants to be the one to fill us and give us purpose and joy. He wants to be our life!

(Oh, I almost forgot, this table could also represent what we actually eat. The **care of our bodies**, after all they are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Yes, He wants to be lord of that as well. We often talk about the 3 Ts: time, talent and treasures, but what about temple?)

**TS** Now a room that a lot of men love:

**Workroom: card table with some tools on it and a laptop computer**

Oh yea. The workroom. I love this room. Tools and building things. Well, this represents our **work** – our place of employment. You mean Jesus wants to go to work with me? Wow. He can be lord of my job? Living for him even while I am at work? Wow. Never thought about that.

**Col. 3:22-23**

This room can also represent my **service for God**. What are we building for the kingdom? What am I doing that is eternal? How am I serving my community, my church, the world. Is Jesus lord of this? Are we just building stuff for ourselves or are we serving the Lord and building for Him?

**Mt. 6:19** lay up treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy

**Career choice** Young people, this table could also represent your career pursuits and career choice. Are you willing for Jesus to be lord of this? Don't just think about what you want and what will make the most money, but rather ask Jesus to show you what He wants you to do with your life. After all, He is the One who bought you with a price. You are His!

**TS** Here we come to a very intimate area of our lives:

**Bedroom: bed made with sheets and pillow**

This room is pretty private. My relationships with the **opposite sex ...and/or my spouse .. perhaps even my sex life.**

For those who are single, lordship means no to premarital sex – for your good by the way. It means treating the opposite gender like a brother or sister in Christ.

For those married, lordship means let the marriage bed is undefiled (**Hebr. 13**). Lordship also means no extramarital affairs, no sexually impure thoughts, no sexual abuse... it means a healthy sex life within marriage and not neglecting this important area.

Once again lordship can be very difficult, but we must remember that God's will is always for our good. He wants to protect us from the pain of sin.

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**TS** What did you say Jesus? You smell something? And it doesn't smell good? Oh, I think I know what it is – my secret sins, some idols in my life and just stuff I haven't been willing to give over to God:

### **Closet**

*Tries to keep Jesus from opening the closet ... You don't want to see what is in there. I know you love me. I know you want what's best for me. Then why won't I let you see it? Probably because I am embarrassed and ashamed. I know you love me. I know you want what's best for me. Yes, I know you already know what is in there.*

*Opens it up and things come crashing down (liquor bottle/cans, pills, magazines, food, phone, sports stuff).*

How am I ever going to deal with all of this. Boy it smells bad. I guess sin and idols do that don't they? ... You can forgive me? I know I have to come clean and quit trying to hide this stuff.

**Prov.28:13** He who conceals his sin will not prosper but he who confesses and forsakes it shall find mercy.

Jesus wants the key to this closet so that he can clean it up and replace it with better stuff. Thank you for your grace and mercy, Lord. Where else can I go to get true forgiveness like I need?

(there are some other things in here, too, Lord, that I have not yielded to you: *food*: I go to this instead of you when I am stressed; *phone*: I gossip when I on the phone; *sport/hunting*: I can use this as an escape

**TS** alright, let me see how my finances are doing: my checking account, my investments, my savings ....

### **Filing Cabinet**

*Opens the drawer, pulls out his check book, and then looks over his shoulder and sees Jesus:*

Let's see what we find here: all my bank records and financial information. You mean I can trust you with this? This is often one of the last areas to be yielded to God. Which is sad because Jesus spoke a lot about money and he said if we can't be trusted with worldly wealth, then how can he entrust to us more important things of the kingdom? (**Luke 16:11**)

What does it mean to yield this? Based on **Mal. 3:10** and **Mt. 23:23** It begins with tithing and then moves to more radical giving as God directs. It really means doing with our money what He says.

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There is one other thing in this filing cabinet that is crucial. You know I realize I have been **treating Jesus like a guest in my house**. What I need to do is get the **deed** to the home and sign it over to Him. I am going to do that. Then He is the owner and I am His servant instead of me being the owner and Him just being a guest.

*Slide of the "Deed of Ownership" insert*

**Chall.** *Read it over:* Are you willing to sign this today? What is Jesus not lord of in your life? Where is God speaking to you? Which room do you most identify with?

**Illustr.** **Abraham Lincoln** once heard a sermon and was asked if it was great. He said, "No the sermon was not great because it didn't ask us to do something great." Well, I am asking you to do something great, and that is to give your entire life over to Jesus as Lord!

**Col. 1:18**

**Pray**

**End:**

- *My Heart Christ's Home* booklet's for sale in lobby
- Women's conference Elizabeth Inrig in Nov.
- Singles retreat
- Concert tonight at 7 PM
- **Col. 1:18**