

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

- When a person receives Jesus Christ, he is born again into the family of God.  
*Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3*

(It is noteworthy that when John wrote his epistle, he referred to the recipients of his letter as "little children"-children in Christ.)

- Coming to Christ simply as a little child is an exciting privilege. God does not expect us to achieve a certain degree of spiritual knowledge or skill in the Scripture before we come to Him. He receives us just as we are and loves us as His babes. However, God does expect that we will not remain babes forever, but will grow to full maturity. Any parent can understand God's concern for us, His children. We all love our helpless newborn babies with all our heart, but we also hope and pray that they will grow normally to full maturity. Just as it grieves our hearts to see a child who does not grow, so it grieves God's heart to see us remain spiritual infants all our lives.
- Growth in Christ can only take place as we learn to know Him and as we make Jesus not only our Savior, but also the Lord of every part of our lives.

**DEFINITION OF LORDSHIP: Lordship is giving back to God the controls of my life so that He may use me to accomplish and fulfill His will through me.**

- This Lordship issue is what the apostle Paul was speaking of in Galatians 2:20.
- Lordship is ceasing to live for myself and beginning to live by God's power for God's purpose.

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20*

- The same idea is found in Romans 12: 1 where Paul says that our bodies (or our earthly lives) are to be presented to Christ as a living sacrifice.

*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. Romans 12:1*

- Paul's life itself was a living example of what he preached.

*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry, which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24*

- Jesus has a plan for you! Just as Paul yielded his life to God so that he could live out that plan, you also can discover God's unique plan for your life as you yield your life to Him.
- Because the Lordship of Christ is probably the most important aspect of the Christian life, we will be dealing with it at various points throughout this course. In this lesson, however, we will deal with basic *personal* Lordship. We must begin with our own person in making Christ Lord before we can submit to Him in other areas of our lives.

## Satan's Syllogism

- A syllogism is a form of reasoning which uses a major and minor premise to form its conclusions.
- Here, we are going to examine the most evil syllogism of all time-Satan's deceptive syllogism which led Eve astray and which continues to cause people to rebel against Christ's Lordship.

As we have already discovered, God created man in His image with a WILL, an INTELLECT and EMOTIONS. These attributes-which are key ingredients in choice or decision-making, require that God provide man with an environment where he could use them. God knew when He did this that man might disobey, but His great love and desire to give man His nature caused Him to provide that environment.

When Satan tempted Eve, he appealed to these three attributes. He played upon her emotions by causing her to desire what God had forbidden. He appealed to her intellect with his deceptive reasoning. And he at last caused her to use her will to break God's law.

In appealing to her intellect or power to reason, Satan used a *syllogism* which he still uses successfully today.

## Major Premise

- *God's plan is restrictive.* (This is correct. God has placed restrictions upon man as He did with Adam and Eve.)

## Minor Premise

- *Restrictions are bad.* (This is incorrect. God's restrictions are for our good and are for the purpose of allowing us to use our will, intellect and emotions to choose for Him. He could have created robots which needed no restrictions because they were programmed to do only what He desired. But He didn't. He created people made in His image.)

## Conclusion

- *God's plan is bad.* (If one premise is incorrect, the conclusion will always be incorrect. But Eve bought the conclusion that God must be holding out on them and that disobedience to God's plan would profit them. )

## The Consequences

- When man chose to disobey God and to become independent of God's will, sin entered the human race.
- Since that terrible day of disobedience and independence, God has been forced from His rightful throne in the human heart. Men are constantly saying NO to God's will to pursue their own ambitions of material gain.

## The Solution

- The only way to escape Satan's logic and begin to grow in the Christian life is by again crowning Christ Lord of our lives-turning the controls of our lives back to Him.

## *How to Make Christ Lord*

### Recognize His Universal Lordship

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

*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every name, 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.*

*Philippians 2:9,10*

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. Colossians 1:15-17*

- Jesus is the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, and His will is being carried out according to the exact prophecies of God. History is unfolding according to God's will, with or without man's approval and cooperation.

### Recognize His Personal Lordship

- This ownership of Christ is true on at least three counts.

#### By Creation

- I was created by Him.

*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1 :27*

#### By Redemption

- I was purchased by Christ's blood.

*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.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20*

#### By Rebirth

- I am His son or daughter.

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. John 1:12*

### Recognize I cannot be Independent

- True independence is not one of the options given to man. We can be independent from something, but that will automatically make us dependent upon or enslaved to something else. The moment we depart from God, we become slaves of sin and Satan.
- Many times people think that they will not follow either God or Satan, but this is not possible. We are created to be dependent, and independence from one master means enslavement to the other. This is what Paul is trying to communicate in Romans, where he says:

*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death or of obedience to righteousness? Romans 6:16.*