
C O N T E N T S

A Vision for Life & Ministry

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**SESSION 3****Making Jesus Lord, Part I**

Think back to the first day of your first job. How did you feel? Could you do everything you needed to do right away? Did someone train you? How long did it take you to “get in the groove”?

Learning to follow Jesus takes time, too. We need to be trained by someone who knows what to do. Jesus is our “teacher” for the Christian walk. When He becomes Lord of our lives, our heart’s desire will be to obey Him and please Him more than anyone else.

But before we can make Jesus Lord, we need to revere Him. Is He worthy of our reverence? Why does He deserve to be the Lord of our lives? Because He has the credentials!

Credential #1 – He created us. Jesus is the Living Word of God. Read John 1:1-5 substituting “Jesus Christ” each time “the Word” is used. Compare that passage in John to Colossians 1:15-16. Jesus Christ along with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the world and created us.

Because He created us, Jesus knows how we function best. Read Psalm 139:13-16. Jesus Christ knows everything about us. His unsurpassed knowledge of us qualifies Him to be our Lord.

Credential #2 – He identifies with us. Picture in your mind a story where a young fearless prince delivers his country from an evil ruler. Jesus was that young fearless prince. He became a human being and then He “gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4).

Since Jesus lived as a man for thirty-three years, He knows the problems and temptations we face every day. “We do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus deserves to be our Lord because He faced the same problems we face, yet remained sinless.

Credential #3 – He redeemed us. Jesus Christ invaded our world, lived a perfect life and died for our sins. Through His death, He crushed Satan’s rule on this earth forever. Redeem means to “rescue” or “ransom.” Another definition for redeem is to “recover ownership by paying a specified sum.” Jesus has legally obtained ownership

of our lives from Satan. He has the right to be our Lord because He has bought us with the price of His blood. “You are not your own; you were bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Jesus has the credentials to be Lord of our lives. So what should that mean to us? It depends on how we define “lord.” There are three Greek words in the New Testament that describe Jesus as our Lord. Let’s look at each word and its English equivalent.

Despotes (master) – This master describes “someone with unlimited power.” Because Jesus’ power has no limit, He can master any situation.

Basileus (monarch) – This kind of ruler is someone with “all power and authority.” A monarch’s word is law. Jesus is superior to other monarchs because His word is not only law, but it is always truthful and right. His authority is the final authority.

Kurios (lord) – A person who is “lord” is the owner. *Kurios* indicates authority, but also conveys a sense of wisdom and love. When Jesus is Lord of our lives, He is the wise and loving owner.

The Apostle Paul expresses Jesus’ lordship through what God has done as a result of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection: “God exalted Him [Jesus] to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

Jesus deserves to be our Lord. He has the credentials. He has been given authority from God to rule in our lives. He desires to be the wise and loving owner of our lives. The question we must answer is simple: Do I revere Jesus enough to submit to His lordship in my life? Our response to that question is absolutely critical to our own personal relationship with Jesus, and also determines our ability to lead others spiritually. If Jesus is not Lord of our lives, how can we lead others into a deeper relationship to Him? Let’s give that some serious thought before we continue.

3. After desiring Christ's lordship, you must decide to let Him be Lord. The apostle Paul, when he was blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus, exclaimed: "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting," Jesus replied. "Now get up and go in the city and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:5-6). What did Paul do? He went into Damascus. His decision to obey reflected that he understood what it meant to have Jesus as Lord of his life. What steps of obedience do you need to take that will lead to Jesus' lordship in your life?

Take that step right now by faith. Jesus will make your desire for His lordship greater and greater as you continue to obey Him. He will honor your obedience. Fill in the statement below.

Today, (date) ____/____/_____, I took the following steps of obedience in response to Jesus' lordship in my life:

Signature _____

4. To encourage you in responding to Jesus' lordship, memorize Philippians 2:9-11.