

LORDSHIP

I. Overview and Definitions

- A. Number one or the only one
- B. All authority is granted
- C. God will not fight you for the throne (Mark 10:17-22 – the rich young ruler)
- D. God becomes Lord only when you unconditionally surrender
 - 1. God is Lord of all or not Lord at all
 - 2. “The measure of a man’s power is in the measure of his surrender” – William Booth, Salvation Army
 - 3. My quiet time – “I contrive and manipulate in order to compete rather than surrender in order to depend.”
 - 4. Surrender places me in a state of dependence (which I don’t like) which is living by faith (to which I am commanded). II Corinthians 12:9 Romans 1:17

E. Definition – Living in a state of mind of choosing to have no other options (see A above)

- 1. 1. My quiet time – “you will do my will my way”
- 2. During the exodus, returning to Egypt was always an option. They were willing to trade slavery for security (which is the opposite of walking by faith). Keeping that option open cost them a land flowing with milk and honey
- 3. “No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God” Luke 9:62
- 4. “No Lord” is an oxymoron. Once you say no, he is no longer Lord.
- 5. When you say “no” to God it is because you have chosen something else as your God. You don’t have a neutral gear.
- 6. Can you confidently say as did Mary, “Behold the bond slave of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.”?

F. The only time Lordship is an issue is when you disagree. As long as you agree with what God is doing or wants you to do, Lordship is not an issue.

1. Like your wife – only time submission is a problem is when she disagrees with you
2. The only evidence of Lordship is obedience when you disagree and don't want to do it.
3. Illustration
 - a) Jesus in the garden – He came face to face with the will of God and didn't want to do it.
 - b) Ephesians 5: 25, 29, 33 – Is there any doubt that God's will is for you to love your wife. (And knowing we might miss the details of what is meant by love it is defined in I Cor 13: 4-7)
 - c) The inescapable fact is that there are no exceptions given. Love your wife except when she (fill in the blank). None! Not one!
 - d) The test of Lordship is, do you respond in love (I Cor 13: 4-7 as a template) even when she is disrespectful, mean spirited, hurtful (fill in the blank)
4. The test of Lordship is that you obey when you don't feel like it or agree with it.
5. Luke 5: 5
6. God does not resent your wrestling with him, even arguing with him but only from a position of surrender. "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done."
7. If not, our authority becomes ourselves or others or the culture.

II. Major ingredients of Lordship

- A. Eternal values – His values are your values. No conflict of purpose, of direction, of pursuit.
- B. Faith – you believe He
 1. Is all-knowing

2. Is all-powerful
 3. Is good
 4. Always has your best interest at heart
- C. Obedience – His will, His way, always.
- III. Major ingredients of Lordship defined
- A. Eternal versus temporal values
1. Phil. 3: 7-10
 - a) Traded all to know Christ
 - b) Dung – Skubalon
 2. God will not fill you with his Holy Spirit to better enable you to pursue the temporal.
 3. You will never make Christ the Lord of your life unless you want what he is offering.
 4. II Cor. 11: 23-28, II Cor. 4: 15-18
 - a) Momentary light affliction?
 - b) The outer man for the inner man.
 - c) Things seen for the things unseen.
 5. Trouble, suffering, persecution only affects men with temporal values.
 - a) Job 23: 10
 - b) Acts 20: 24
 - c) Poems
 6. A simple example of how living for eternal values dictates our daily decisions.
 - a) I Cor. 9: 19-27
 - 1) vs. 19-22 - the lifestyle
 - 2) vs. 23 - the motivation

- 3) vs. 24-27 - the analogy of athletes
- b) The 2004 Olympic Games
 - 1) vs. 25 - self control in all things
 - 2) A lot of things they did not do
- c) I compare that to myself and most other "dedicated" Christians I know and find that dedication and focus missing.
 - 1) I am sloppy
 - Up every morning at 5:30 for my Q.T.?
 - Memorize 3 a week?
 - Faithful to review?
 - Faithful in prayer?
 - 30 min. – 1 hour in strenuous exercise?
 - Refusing food I know is not good for me?
 - 2) I abuse the grace of God
 - Deacon chairman story
 - College professor story
 - 3) It shows in the race because I have chosen not to win. Being a winner cost too much! Instead I choose to be an acceptable participant.
 - 4) Every decision becomes an option once we decide we are not going to win. Compromise becomes acceptable behavior
 - I'll review my versus tomorrow
 - I'll get some time with the Lord this weekend
 - I'll exercise later
 - I'll just eat this one
 - I guess it doesn't hurt to look if you don't touch
 - 5) So instead of Christ's disciple we choose to be a church disciple.
 - Attend faithfully
 - Give generously
 - Support the pastor and his programs
 - Manage your sin life so that you're not an embarrassment.

6) Compromise is acceptable behavior once you decide not to run your race to win.

- Num. 33: 55
- Num. 32: 23
- Luke 12: 47

7) Fellowship is a by-product of Lordship

- Num. 14: 24
- II Chron. 16: 9

What fellowship has righteousness with Baal? Name those in the gospels who experienced fellowship with Jesus. The disciples, those who came to believe, (Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Zacheus) etc. None of these people were perfect, but they never questioned his authority and although they struggled to know how to obey, not to obey was never a consideration. Contrast the scribes, the Pharisees, the skeptics. They had a knowledge of the Word, were faithful to their system but obedience was always a live option. Jesus would have nothing to do with them.

8) Excellence in all things is not a result of discipline but of Lordship.

- Mark 7: 37

B. A lesson from Revelation 2:14

1. The Doctrine of Baalam – To place a stumbling block before the sons of Israel.

a) To eat things sacrificed to idols.

b) To commit acts of immorality.

2. Unger's Bible Dictionary: "The Doctrine of Baalam was the teaching to abandon Godly separation and a pilgrim's character in favor of worldly conformity. Baalam taught Barak to corrupt people who could not be cursed.

3. Satan's chief tactic today – He cannot curse a redeemed people so he works to corrupt.

a) Mark 4: 14, 16-20

b) Luke 10: 41-42

4. The antidote is:

a) Romans 12: 1-2 - A living sacrifice

- b) Hebrews 12: 1-2 - Lay aside every weight
-The sin that easily besets us
- c) Weight - Bulk , mass, an encumbrance
- d) Sin that besets - To place itself around – hence a sin that easily encircles and entangles the Christian runner. Like running in a long loose robe.
- e) Our reasonable service therefore is to live totally for him – Sacrifice yet alive!
 - 1) Forsake the sin
 - 2) Dump the weight

C. Temporal Values Defined

1. I John 2: 15-17

- a) Lust of the flesh - sex, immorality, food, your passions, gluttony, pleasures.
- b) Lust of the eyes – Things, stuff we clutter our lives with and then spend more time and money to protect them.
- c) Pride of life – Nobody tells me what to do.
- d) And that is all there is
- e) When a man rejects Christ it is always for one or more of these three reasons.
- f) Matt. 6: 19-20 A warning – don't do that!
- g) Pity the man who only wants to work, to make money, to acquire possessions, to have pleasure.
- h) Phil. 3: 19 – What Paul called living for your belly.
- i) Luke 12: 20-21 – Only man in the Bible God called a fool.
- j) Gal 2:20 - To be alive to eternal values you have to be dead to the world. You cannot serve God and mammon.

D. Living By Faith

1. We just talked about, that to live for the eternal versus giving your life for the temporal, is walking by faith. Your focus is on the unseen versus the seen.
2. Hebrew 11: 27 ... He endured as seeing him who is unseen.
3. Do I see God in circumstances?
4. How can I gauge whether or not I am living for the eternal or the things of this world?
 - a) The decisions I make.
 - b) The way I react to circumstances.
 - c) The way I treat people.
5. A man will never make Christ his Lord until he perceives it to be in his best interest.
 - a) Heaven or Hell – no struggle
 - b) Lord of all he is and has – tremendous struggle. Yielding to his Lordship is obedience without knowing it is in your best interest. That takes FAITH!
 - c) Most business men would trust another man to watch his wife take a shower before he would trust him with his check book.

E. Obedience

1. Matt. 13: 10-16 – Why did Jesus simply tell them stories?
2. Obedience is the name of the game.
3. Luke 6: 46 “and why call you me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?”
4. Matt. 7: 21 – “Not everyone that says to me Lord, Lord”...
5. Matt. 7: 22 – Many will say to me on that day, “Lord,...”
6. The example of David

- a) Deut. 17: 16-17 – David was commanded not to multiply wives, horses, and wealth for himself, but he did.
- b) Exodus 20: 14 – You shall not commit adultery, but he did.
- c) Exodus 20: 13 – You shall not murder, but he did.
- d) Amnon saw his dad commit adultery and get away with it so he did.
- e) Absalom saw his dad commit murder and get away with it, so he did.
- f) Proverbs 17:13 – His own son wrote these words.
- g) What are your children watching you get away with?
- h) Galatians 6: 7-8 – God says I guarantee you will get what's coming to you. Jeremiah 17: 10
- i) James 1: 22-24 – Don't deceive yourself.

IV. The two most often used excuses to trump his Lordship.

A. The Family

- 1. Luke 9: 59 - circle me first
- 2. Luke 14: 20

B. The Business – Luke 14: 18-19

V. Concluding Thoughts

A. When Lordship is a reality we are:

- 1. Salt – Matthew 5: 13 – to a bland, meaningless existence
- 2. Light – Matthew 5: 14 – to a blind, groping, stumbling existence.

B. Stephen Olford – Only one life, will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.

Prayed Any time
 Any Place
 Any Cost I'M IN !!!

He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

- A. M. Overton

“Untitled”

(His Promises)

He hides himself so wondrously
A though there were no God.

He is least seen when all the powers
Of ill are most abroad.

Or he deserts us at the hour
The fight is almost lost.

And seems to leave us to ourselves
Just when we need him most.

It is not so, but so it looks
And we lose courage then.

And doubts will come if God hath kept
His promises to men.

Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot or side or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land .
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star.
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers
Spent, leaned me against a tree to die
and rent by ravening beast that compassed me I swooned.
Hast thou no wound?

No wound? No scar?
Yet as the master shall the servant be
And pierced are the feet that follow me.
But thine are whole.
Can he have followed far
Who has no wound nor scar?

- Amy Carmichael

“Untitled”

(Deliver Me)

From Prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O Captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow thee.

From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakenings,
(Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified)
From all that dims thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod;
Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.

From “Gold Cord, the Story of a Fellowship”
By Amy Carmicheal