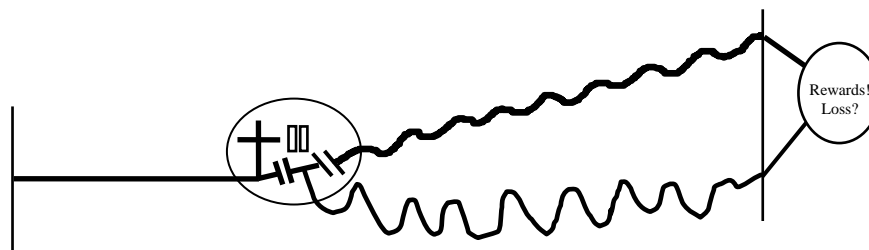


"LORDSHIP"

Does God want every Christian to be a disciple (apprentice) of His?
Is it reasonable? What does this imply?



1. I belong to God because He created me. (Does the Creator not have absolute authority over His creation?)

Deut. 10:14 "... to the Lord your God **belong** ... the earth and **all** that is in it.
Psalm 100:3 **It is He who has made us, and not** we ourselves; We are **His** people ...
Jer. 10:23 ... a man's way is **not in himself, nor** is it in a man who walks **to direct his steps**.
Rom. 14:7-8 ... **not one of us** lives for himself, and **not one** dies for himself; for if we live, we live **for the Lord**, or if we die, we die **for the Lord**; therefore whether we live or die, we are **the Lord's**.

2. He bought me. He redeemed me. He owns me. (A statement of fact)

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are **not your own**? For you have been **bought** with a price: ...
2 Cor. 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might **no longer live for themselves**, but **for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.

3. The title "Lord" implies a Master - servant relationship.

Matthew 22:37-38 And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart, and with **all** your soul, and with **all** your mind.' "This is the great and foremost commandment.
John 13:13 (Jesus said) "You call Me Teacher and **Lord**; and you are right, **for so I am**.
Luke 6:46 (Jesus said) "**Why** do you call Me, '**Lord, Lord**,' and **do not do what I say**?
Jn 14:21,23 (Jesus said) "**He who has My commandments and keeps** them is the one who loves Me; ... Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will **keep** My word; ...

4. He is my Master, and I should view myself as His servant (slave).

Matthew 10:24-25 (Jesus said) “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. ...

Matthew 20:26-28 (Jesus said) “... whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall 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.”

Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, ...

1 Cor. 7:22-23 he who was called while free, is Christ’s slave. You were bought with a price ...

Phil. 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2 Tim. 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

1 Peter 2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

NOTE ON ROM. 1:1 Paul identified himself first as a servant of Christ Jesus. “Servant” (*doulos*) means slave, a person owned by another. Paul wore this title gladly (Gal. 1:10; Titus 1:1), reveling in the Old Testament picture of a slave who in love binds himself to his master for life (Ex. 21:2-6). (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.)

5. God expects those things I value to be yielded to His Lordship.

Matthew 10:37-39 (Jesus said) “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 19:29-30 (Jesus said) “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. “But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.

Luke 5:10-11 ... James and John, ... Simon, ... When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him. (Luke 5:27-28)

6. Jesus appeals to me to put my head in His yoke. (Yielding my independence and perceived rights to Him.)

Matthew 11:28-30 (Jesus said) “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

“Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence.”

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7. God wants me to offer my body to Him.

Romans 6:13,18-19 ... *For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now **present your members as slaves** to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*

Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-2 ... *For **from** Him and **through** Him and **to** Him are **all** things. ... **Therefore** I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of **your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

8. God has to be more important than my very life.

Luke 14:26-33 (Jesus said) *“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and **even his own life**, he **cannot** be My disciple. “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me **cannot** be My disciple. “For which one of you, when he wants to **build** a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in **battle**, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. “So then, **none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions**. (See NOTE below.)*

Luke 9:23-24 *And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross** daily and **follow Me**. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life for My sake**, he is the one who will save it.*

John 12:24-26 (Jesus said) *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains alone; but **if it dies**, it bears much fruit. “He who loves his life loses it, and he who **hates his life in this world** will keep it to life eternal. “If anyone serves Me, he **must follow Me**; and where I am, there My servant will be also; ...*

Acts 20:24 *“But **I** (Paul) **do not consider my life of any account** as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, ...*

Acts 21:13 ... *Paul answered, ... **I am ready** not only to be **bound**, but even to **die** at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

Rev. 12:11 *“And they overcame him (evil one) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they **did not love their life** even when faced with death.*

NOTE ON LUKE 14:26-33 The stress here is on the priority of love (cf. Matt. 10:37 - “He who loves father or mother **more than** Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter **more than** Me is not worthy of Me.). One’s loyalty to Jesus must come before his loyalty to his family or even to life itself. Indeed, those who did follow Jesus against their families’ desires were probably thought of as hating their families. (Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.)

*If God loves you,
can only do what is in your best interest,
and never makes mistakes,
what would be a logical reason
for not embracing Him as Master?*

When clearly explained, the typical new believer will view Lordship as "good news", as evidence of God's love for them.

Unfortunately, many older believers who have never had Lordship clearly explained to them, upon hearing it tend to perceive it as "bad news", equating it to "bondage".

SUMMARY OF "LORDSHIP" PRINCIPLES

God has a great and beautiful plan for my entire life. Am I willing to yield my personal rights to Him and give Him permission to orchestrate my life to His perfect ends?

1. FACTS:

- a. God says that as a Christian I have been **bought** (redeemed) from slavery to sin by the blood of His Son. That purchase has given Him legal **ownership** of my entire life. That He now owns me is an **absolute fact** that does **not** depend on my acknowledgment or acceptance of it. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ... *do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are **not your own**? For you have been **bought** with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.* 1 Peter 1:18-19 ... *you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ**.*

- b. Salvation - speaks of a **Foundation, Jesus Christ**, upon which construction will take place. Lordship - The quality and duration of that construction depend on whom **I choose** as the architect and contractor. If I will give the Lord permission, allowing Him to **manage** my life, **He** will build a beautiful eternal house of gold, silver and precious stones on that foundation. That house will survive the judgment seat of Christ. However, if I am unwilling to let Him manage the construction, **I** will be building a **temporary** house of wood, hay and straw which will only last for the duration of my life here on earth, and will become ashes at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Daily Walk in Fellowship - The "**building materials**" that are available to the Holy Spirit fall into three categories, my "**time**", my "**energy**" and my "**possessions**" (both tangible and intangible possessions). The Lord has given me a "**free will**", which means that I have the privilege of moment by moment "**allowing**" Him to use those "**resources**" that He has granted me. But I am also free at any moment to "**deny**" Him use of any or all of those resources (building materials), during which time I will be using those same resources to build myself a temporary structure for this life here on earth. The Lord will not force me to let Him use my resources, even though He always has my best interest at heart.

1 Cor. 3:10-15 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a **foundation**, and another is **building** on it. But **each** man must be careful **how** he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the **fire** itself will test the **quality** of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a **reward**. If any man's work is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

Psalms 127:1 *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; ...*

Eccl. 3:14 *I know that **everything** God does will remain **forever**; ...*

- c. Before I became a Christian, I was enslaved by my human nature (inherited from Adam). I **always** resisted God and was **not able** to please Him. That **same** human nature still resides in me as a Christian. It is **not the least bit improved**. God did not repair my rebellious human nature, but rather He gave me a **new** divine nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit.
 Mat. 7:17-18 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the **bad tree** bears bad fruit. “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, **nor can a bad tree produce good fruit**.
 Gal. 3:1-3 *You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, **are you now being perfected by the flesh?***
 Gal. 5:17 For **the flesh sets its desire against** the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
- d. I should accept a role as a “disciple” (apprentice learner), allowing the Holy Spirit “**access**” to every area of my being.

From infancy I began to accumulate ideas and concepts about life, the world, etc. When I became a Christian those ideas and concepts did not disappear, but rather have remained in my mind much like written material on a blackboard. Some of those ideas and concepts will be in harmony with God, others will not be. Only the Holy Spirit knows what needs to be changed in my thinking. That is why each Christian needs to give the Holy Spirit “**access**” to his/her mental blackboard and be open to whatever changes **He** determines best. **Yielding up that authority** to Him speaks of “Lordship”, after which can follow the **process** of having my mind renewed, i.e. to increasingly view life as He views it.

Caution: A Christian who intentionally (or through ignorance) is unwilling to acknowledge His authority over his/her mind (understanding) will very likely adopt a perceived “Do” and “Don’t Do” list. That list would typically include what seems to be acceptable Christian behavior, based on the average spiritual expectations as modeled by older Christians. The danger is that fellowship with the Holy Spirit will be severely threatened when He speaks to the new believer about areas of thinking or behavior that are outside of the arbitrary parameters set up by the new Christian. The result is often a reoccurring cycle of disobedience, frustration, repentance and brokenness. This will continue until the **will** is surrendered.

Romans 12:2 ... **do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Luke 6:40 “A pupil (disciple) is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be **like** his teacher.

2. ILLUSTRATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY THAT DESCRIBE LORDSHIP.

- a. Relinquishing my independence - as in a wedding ceremony.

Marriage consists of an **event** (a wedding ceremony), followed by a **process**. The **wedding ceremony** represents a relinquishment of my right to make independent decisions, in favor of being joined (yoked) with another. The **marriage process** is designed to be a growing relationship, learning to live and walk in harmony with a spouse. This process represents the manner in which a Christian learns to live and walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:32 This **mystery** is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church**.

- b. Acknowledgment of His ownership of my life.
A conscious agreement with what God states to be true.
- c. An acceptance of His yoke (an event), followed by learning of Him (a process of learning to walk in harmony with Him). A relinquishment of your right to live and make decisions independently.
Matthew 11:28-30 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **“Take My yoke** upon you and **learn** from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*
Note: Older Christians who have not yet acknowledged His Lordship tend to be threatened by the Master-servant relationship, imagining that it borders on “bondage”. A Christian needs to understand that the God-ordained Master-servant relationship is intended to be liberating.*
- d. Entering His rest (as pictured in the O.T. Israelites).
At the burning bush, God laid out to Moses His original purpose for the Israelites.
Ex. 3:7-8a *The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, ... “So I have come down to deliver them **from** the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land **to** a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, ...*
The **1st group** was unwilling to accept God’s plan. (Num. 13:1-2, 23-33, 14:1-11, 19-24)
The **2nd group** was willing to entrust themselves into God’s care. (Josh. 21:44-45, 23:14)
Warning for me: Rom. 15:4 *For whatever was written in earlier times was written **for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* (see also Heb. 4:9-11)
- e. A wild mustang.
A wild mustang could be used to depict Lordship - The goal is to end up with an animal that is **available, trained** and **useful** to its owner (Master). But **first** the mustang’s **will** (his resistance to another’s authority) must be broken. Upon acceptance of another’s authority over it, the mustang is not yet considered to be the least bit trained, or useful. However, it now has a **mindset** (disposition, attitude) that will allow it to **begin** the **process** of being trained (transformed), which will over time produce an animal that is useful to its owner. Until the **will** (mindset, disposition) is changed the animal can never be trained.
Psa. 32:9 *Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have **no understanding**, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.*
- f. Car illustration
Imagine an auto which could represent the Christian’s life. The Christian is sitting in the driver’s seat, while Jesus sits in the passenger seat. Because God allows them to hold the steering wheel, many believers erroneously conclude that God is simply seated at their side, ready to help whenever they determine they have a need. Hence the bumper sticker, “*God is my co-Pilot*”. Even though the Christian may acknowledge that Jesus is holding the “title” to the auto, there is a fear of relinquishing control of the steering wheel. The Lord doesn’t want to be in the believer’s life as a co-Pilot, he wants to be in charge and direct the course of his life. “Lordship” is really an issue of “control”, and it is sad that so many believers are unwilling to let God have control of the steering wheel, because they’re afraid of where He might take them. If given control, God will always do what is in my best interest. God wants the believer to learn to keep his hands on the steering wheel, while actively and voluntarily relying on the Lord to provide directions.

3. ILLUSTRATION OF TWO DOORS

What does the typical new Christian have to face as he looks at the future?

Shortly after becoming a Christian I come to a fork in the road where I see a door, through which I can visualize the future. I see goals and material belongings that would seem to satisfy my needs and desires in this life, at least based on my previous experience. Those goals and material belongings don't appear to be unacceptably evil. In fact I've seen many Christians seeking after the same things. Using my God-given skills and intellect, those things appear to be obtainable, especially now that I can count on God to assist when needed. It seems reasonable that if God delivered me from unhappiness when He saved me, my happiness would now be one of His priorities.

But wait, I see through another door. It is as though there is a sign beyond the entrance with a message from Jesus saying, "Come follow Me, I have a better plan prepared for you". He seems to want me to trust Him alone to give me fulfillment and satisfaction in this life and beyond. He seems to be telling me that the things I've seen through the other door only give temporary satisfaction for this life, but what He has prepared for me has eternal value. Since I can't visualize anything He seems to be promising, how does He expect me to make a sensible evaluation? Does He really expect me to just trust Him on blind faith? That doesn't seem very reasonable since I'm just a new Christian and don't have much faith yet. Maybe further along I'll understand better, when I have more faith.

4. MY LIFE CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO THREE AREAS

There are THREE AREAS over which His Lordship needs to be considered, over my **possessions**; over my **body**; and over my **understanding**. Why three areas? Because a failure to yield to His authority over these three areas can keep a Christian from going on to maturity in Christ to bear eternal fruit.

Matthew 13:22 "... *the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries** and **riches** and **pleasures** of this life, and bring **no** fruit to maturity. (Luke 8:14 ... it becomes **unfruitful**.)*

5. IS GOD TOTALLY GOOD?

- Can He be totally counted on?
- What does the Bible say about God's character?
- What does the evil one say about God's character?
- Just as a typical small child recognizes the authority of a parent, we should expect the typical new Christian to easily understand that God ought to be in charge.
- Is there a logical reason to not entrust myself totally to His authority? At the judgment seat of Christ what excuse could I offer for not doing so?
- If God has already given me what was most valuable to Him, how can I ever conclude that He would deny me that which is of so much less value? ***He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*** (Rom. 8:32)

Many older believers tend to equate Lordship to "bondage", while most new believers will equate Lordship to "freedom" (if it is clearly and correctly explained).

Our Daily Bread
October 24, 1998

Surrender

In the early 1940s, the president of Dallas Seminary, Lewis Sperry Chafer, gave a very brief banquet speech. Introduced after a long program, he announced his subject:

"The Reasonableness Of Fully Surrendering Our Lives To God."

Then, because of the lateness of the hour, he gave only the three points of his message.

Reason 1: **God is all-wise and knows better than anyone else what is best for my life.**

Reason 2: **He is almighty and has the power to accomplish what is best for me.**

Reason 3: **God loves me more than anyone else does.**

Chafer concluded, "**Therefore the most logical thing I can do is surrender my life to God.** What more can I say? What more need I say?"

The apostle Paul had the same conviction. He knew that prison and hardship awaited him in Jerusalem, but he also knew that God wanted him to go (Acts 20:22-23). Even his sorrowing friends wisely concluded, "The will of the Lord be done" (21:14). They knew that Paul was right.

No matter what happens, when we do God's will we're in the safest place in all the world. The Lord is all-wise, almighty, and all-loving. Doesn't it make sense to surrender your life to Him? –HVL

*All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live. --Van de Venter*

Surrender means victory when we surrender to God.

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