The Lordship of Jesus Christ
Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
(Acts 2:36 New International Version)

Introduction

Tonight I want to preach a message on one of the most vital doctrines of the Christian faith and that is The Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The late evangelist, Vance Havner once said, “If I had only one sermon to preach, it would be on THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST. When we get right on that point we are right all down the line. God honors the exaltation of His Son.”

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is perhaps one of the most misunderstood and least preached on subjects in the Bible. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is NOT an aspect of the Christian life it is the very essence of the Christian life. If Jesus is truly the Lord of our life then that settles everything else.

We hear the word LORD used so much as a common expression I’m afraid we have lost our REVERENCE and RESPECT for its meaning.
I do not feel comfortable to even use some of these common expressions to illustrate my point. And I pray that this message might cause you to think twice about using the name LORD as a common expression.

One of the most common misconceptions many Christians have concerning the Lordship of Jesus is that JESUS can be our SAVIOR without being THE LORD OF OUR LIFE.

This is commonly referred to as “easy discipleship.” In other words, “Jesus, I want you to SAVE ME and I want you to FORGIVE ME and I want to SPEND ETERNITY with you in Heaven..........BUT I JUST DON’T WANT TO GIVE YOU COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY LIFE.

As you will learn in tonight’s message IF JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR HE MUST ALSO BE OUR LORD........the two are inseparable......it is not optional.

For just a few minutes I would like for you to consider these three simple points about THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS.

First we will consider THE EXPLANATION OF LORDSHIP
Secondly, THE IMPLICATIONS OF LORDSHIP
And thirdly, THE APPLICATION OF LORDSHIP

First, let’s consider........
I. The Explanation of Lordship

1. If you ever watch a movie set in Old England like “Excalibur” or “The Sword and the Stone” or “Knights of the Round Table” you will no doubt hear the term “LORD” used a lot.

   In Old England, the term Lord was used to designate those of high rank or nobility. Men who reached the level of Knighthood were often referred to as “Lord.”

2. But remember Paul tells us in I TIMOTHY 6:15 that Jesus is “The King of kings and the Lord of lords.” In other words, JESUS ranks higher in nobility and authority than all earthly KINGS and LORDS.

3. The term “LORD” is used over 7,700 times in our English Bible. It is found over 7,000 times in the Old Testament and over 700 times in the New Testament.

   Obviously when the Bible uses a term that many times, God is trying to impress upon us just how important it is.

4. So what does the term “LORD” mean in the Bible?

   There are two greek words used in the New Testament for LORD.

   (a) One is the word, kurios which refers to one having authority. It can also mean “master” or “owner.”

   JOHN 20:28 tells us when Thomas saw Jesus risen from the dead he said, “My Lord and My God!” “MY kurios” “my MASTER” “my OWNER.”
PETER also used that term *kurios* in I Peter 3:15 when he said, *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.* In other words “in your hearts set apart Christ as your MASTER, your OWNER.

(b) The other GREEK word used for LORD in the NEW TESTAMENT is the word *despotes* (dess-po-tay)

The word *despotes* means “one who possesses supreme authority. It is from this word we get our English word “DESPOST” which means “one who governs a kingdom all by himself, one who is in complete control.”

PETER uses this term in II PETER 2:1 when he refers to Jesus as “the sovereign Lord.” In other words, “the one who possesses supreme authority.”

Both *kurios* and *despotes* depict one who is to be honored, obeyed and highly regarded.

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Secondly let’s consider………..

**II. The Implications of Lordship**

1. We have looked at what the word LORD means in general, but what does it mean to you and me personally?

Let me share with you briefly THREE implications of what it means for Jesus to be our Lord.
(a) LORDSHIP IMPLIES OWNERSHIP

Remember while ago I told you that word *KURIOS* means “owner.”

If JESUS is truly our LORD it means HE OWNS US.

I Corinthians 6:19,20  Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are **NOT YOUR OWN**; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

The implication here is that if someone owns us, we relinquish all control, all rights and all authority over to them.

It means we make decisions based on what pleases the one who owns us rather than what pleases us personally.

It means giving up the right to rule our own lives and yielding to the rule of the one who owns us.

The idea of “being owned by Christ” probably conjures up negative images of slavery to those who don’t know Christ. But for those of us who are Christians we should look at giving CHRIST the ownership of our life as yielding control to the One who loves us so much He was willing to lay His life down for us.

(b) LORDSHIP IMPLIES OBEDIENCE

JESUS said in LUKE 6:46  “If you LOVE ME, keep MY commandments.”

As our Lord and Master, Jesus does not give us SUGGESTIONS or RECOMMENDATIONS…..He gives us COMMANDS.

When you and I are not willing to OBEDY Jesus commands, it brings the sincerity of our Christianity into question.
JESUS said in LUKE 6:46 “Why do you call me LORD, LORD, and do not do what I say?

That penetrating question ought to pierce our hearts! We call Jesus LORD, but do we really do what He says?

*He commands us to LOVE OUR ENEMIES. Do we?

*He commands us to PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE US. Do we?

*He commands us to LAY UP TREASURES FOR OURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN. Do we?

*He commands us to SET OUR MINDS ON HEAVENLY THINGS, NOT ON EARTHLY THINGS. Do we?

*He commands us to LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES. Do we?

*He commands us to LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART AND ALL OUR MIND AND ALL OUR SOUL. Do we?

*He commands us to FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST US. Do we?

And there’s a whole lot more Jesus commands us to do. How can we call Him LORD if we won’t obey His commands?

LORDSHIP IMPLIES OWNERSHIP
LORDSHIP IMPLIES OBEDIENCE

(C) LORDSHIP IMPLIES ONENESS

COLOSSIANS 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him.

To “live in Him” means to be ONE WITH HIM.

It means wherever we go, JESUS IS THERE. Whatever we WATCH or LOOK AT......JESUS SEES. Whatever we THINK.........................JESUS KNOWS. Whatever we SAY..........................JESUS HEARS. Whatever we DO, no matter how private or isolated we are............JESUS WATCHES.
NOW THAT THOUGHT OUGHT TO BRING EVERYONE US UNDER CONVICTION.......BECAUSE PART OF LETTING JESUS TRULY BE THE LORD OF OUR LIFE IS BEING ONE WITH HIM EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY.

LORDSHIP IMPLIES OWNERSHIP
LORDSHIP IMPLIES OBEDIENCE
LORDSHIP IMPLIES ONENESS

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We have considered THE EXPLANATIONS OF LORDSHIP and THE IMPLICATIONS OF LORDSHIP finally let’s consider........

III. The Applications of Lordship

Now that we know what LORDSHIP means, let’s get down to where the rubber meets the road. How do you and I practice the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives?

Let’s look at some very specific areas of our lives that are affected by the LORDSHIP OF CHRIST. Since all of these begin with the letter “P” let’s think of them as “a row of p’s.”

(a) Jesus must be the LORD OF YOUR PLANS

Turn over to JAMES 4:13-16

If Jesus is truly your Lord, your plans for the future are to be decided, not by what you want to do, but by what JESUS wants you to do.
This means we must pray about our plans....
it means we must seek the LORD’S will for
our future...........it means we must ask the
Lord to give us wisdom and guidance in
making our plans.

Do you realize the Lord’s plans for our life are
always better than our own?

JEREMIAH 29:11 For I know the plans I have
for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.”

IS JESUS THE LORD OF YOUR PLANS?

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(B)  Jesus must also be the LORD OF YOUR
POCKETBOOK

Ouch! That’s a tough one isn’t it!

Let’s turn back to the OLD TESTAMENT
to MALACHI 3:8-10

The stewardship of our money is a matter
of Lordship.

In II Corinthians 8:5 Paul talks about the incredible
generosity of the Macedonian Churches. These
Christians were very poor and yet they gave so
generously to help the Church in Jerusalem in
their time of need. Why were they willing to do
that?  Paul says it was because “they gave
themselves first to the Lord.”

Does your SPENDING and your GIVING reflect
THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS OVER YOUR LIFE?
(C) Jesus must also be the **LORD OF YOUR PROFESSION**

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. *(that word “calling” means vocation)*

Colossians 3:23 tells us how you and I should approach our job if Jesus is truly our Lord.

Paul says, *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

Christian, you ought to be the hardest working, most dependable and trustworthy employee your boss has.

The way you approach your job ought to be a reflection of THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST over your life.

(D) Jesus must also be the **LORD OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP**

By partnership I mean your marriage.

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:22 *Wives submit to your husband (listen carefully) as to the LORD.*

*verse 25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ (or just as YOUR LORD) loved the Church and gave himself up for her.*

Right there is the recipe for a strong and healthy marriage partnership and that is that both the husband and the wife submit to the LORDSHIP of JESUS CHRIST!
Jesus must also be the **LORD OF YOUR PARENTING**

Ephesians 6:4  Fathers (*PARENTS*) *do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the LORD!*

It's tough to be a parent isn’t it?  
As a matter-of-fact, it's one of the toughest jobs we will ever have in this life.

So the next time your kids are getting on your last nerve........the next time you’re butting heads with your teenager.....the next time you feel like locking them in their room and throwing away the key........just turn your eyes heavenward and say, “DEAR LORD, I CAN'T HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF, PLEASE GIVE ME WISDOM AND GUIDANCE.”

**LET JESUS BE THE LORD OF YOUR PARENTING!**

Jesus must also be the **LORD OF YOUR PRINCIPLES**

Ephesians 5:8-11  For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Life as children of the light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth; and find out what pleases the LORD. Have nothing to do with the fruit of darkness, but rather expose them.

Do your habits say “Jesus is the LORD of my life or do your habits say “Jesus is NOT the LORD of my life?  Do your habits bring HONOR to your LORD?  Or do your habits bring DISHONOR to your LORD?

And finally.............
(G) Jesus must be the LORD OF YOUR PARTICIPATION

II Corinthians 6:14  Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

There are all sorts of clubs and civic organizations to belong to. But as Christians we must carefully scrutinize our involvement in such groups.

-Does the allegiance this club or organization demands from me conflict with my allegiance to Jesus Christ?

-Does the time and energy this club or organization demands from me conflict with the time and energy I should be giving to the Lord?

-Does my involvement in this club or organization put a strain on my marriage or my family?

Christian if JESUS IS TRULY YOUR LORD you need to exercise extreme caution in the things you choose to participate in.

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CONCLUSION

As we close I want to leave you with one final thought.

In Matthew 28:18 as Jesus was about to give the Great Commission, he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
As the Lord of all creation, JESUS has authority over everything!

.....As LORD, Jesus has authority over NATURE “for even the winds and waves obey Him.”

.....As LORD, Jesus has authority over SICKNESS and DISEASE, for we read numerous accounts of His miraculous healings in the Gospels.

.....As LORD, Jesus has authority over the DEMONS of hell, for we read several accounts of Jesus driving demons out of individuals they had possessed.

.....As LORD, Jesus has authority over SATAN for he has “crushed Satan’s head” and has doomed him to the abyss of hell for all eternity.

But the question I want to leave you with tonight is this: Is Jesus truly the LORD of your life? Does Jesus have authority over you?