

October 21, 2018

Jesus is my Lord!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

"...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9-17

"Therefore God exalted him 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 the Father."

Philippians 2:9-11

What kind of relationship do you have with Jesus? Is he an acquaintance; someone you recognize but know very little about? Is he a friend; someone you know a bit better and someone you enjoy spending time with occasionally? Is he your BFF; your very best friend, with whom you share everything? Or, is he your Lord and Master; the one who directs every aspect of your life?

I would imagine that everyone who meets with a body of believers would find their answer among these responses to our first question: What kind of relationship do you have with Jesus? Believers are, by definition, in some kind of relationship with Jesus. I am convinced, however, that most of us have not yet realized the full possibility of a transforming relationship with Jesus regardless of where we are on this spectrum because we have not fully and completely surrendered our existence to the Lordship of Jesus.

The truth is we, all of us, struggle with this idea of the Lordship of Jesus. Submitting to the authority of others does not come easily to any of us. We are, as all of mankind has always been, a stiff-necked and rebellious people. We like to do our own thing and don't respond well to any kind of authority. Most of our world's most serious problems are the result of our stiff-necked and rebellious nature.

A transforming relationship with Jesus requires first and foremost that we surrender to his Lordship. Thus the Apostle Paul would encourage the Roman believers, "***...offer your bodies and living sacrifices to God...***" By its very nature a sacrifice no longer belongs to the one who presents it. Once given a sacrifice belongs to the one who receives it. If I am a living sacrifice I no longer belong to me; I now belong to God.

That is a hard concept for us to accept because of our rebellious nature, but transformation can only be accomplished in us when we have surrendered our will to the will of God. This is a concept we talk about a lot in the world of Christianity. We pay tribute to the fact that "Jesus is Lord" in songs and in much of what we preach. But there is a striking difference between acknowledging that Jesus is Lord and allowing him to become MY Lord.

If Jesus is my Lord then every commandment he gives me requires my absolute obedience. I don't have any say; I don't have any choice. If he is my Lord then I must follow him. That level of submission is a hard thing for most of us to do, and even more challenging, to keep doing day by day. Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus requires my complete surrender to him and to his direction.

It becomes easier to do this, I think, if we remember how our Master describes his Lordship. He says, "***Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, 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.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

If I surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, if I accept his 'yoke'; his control over my life, then he will give me rest. If I fight against his 'yoke' then my relationship will fail to be transforming and the end result will not be his rest. So then, what will we choose? Can we, in fact, surrender all?

