

# Lordship

God has a Right to our Lives

## What is Lordship?

In Chi Alpha, we believe a Christian's outward life is a direct result of the way he or she thinks. The main issues center around the internal parts of our lives, and the external is always a result of the internal. Therefore, we are very concerned with ideas we embrace as Christians. Today we will deal with a very fundamental principal of Christianity – the concept of Lordship. This is probably the primary characteristic of those of whom we say, "He really gets it." There are many who come through Chi Alpha who are good, moral people, but we can easily say they never "got it".

Andrew Murray describes people like this in his book, *The Believer's Absolute Surrender*, "They think they have a right to have their own will in a thousand things. They speak very much what they want, they do very much what they like, they use their property and possessions as they desire; they are their own masters and have never dreamed of saying; "Jesus, I forsake all to follow You."

The true Christian is a man or woman who is dead to self and alive to Christ. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

We will pursue this idea of being dead to self and alive to Christ by looking at the concept of lordship. A simple word study on the word Lord shows that salvation is more than a confession of the mouth. From Strongs' Greek Dictionary, we learn that this word kurios (koo'-ree-os) has the literal meaning of a supreme in authority, or a controller. This is translated in the Bible as God, Lord, or even master. The idea of having another as the supreme in authority, or a master and controller of our lives, is repulsive to the natural man. But as we will see, Jesus demands to be Lord and Savior, not just Savior.

As we study this idea, we need to be brutally honest with ourselves about our own theology. The fundamental questions we need to ask ourselves are "Why do you do the things you do? and Who do you do them for?" The answer to these questions will reveal to us what Francis Shaeffer called our true integration point. God is a God of motive. He is concerned not with outward appearances, but the reality of who we are on the inside. We see this clearly in 1 Samuel 16:7, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

## Our Integration Point

When we speak of integration point, we mean the thing that everything in our lives revolves around. Another way to think about it is the thing by which all other things are filtered. Our integration point is the ultimate meaning in our lives, the thing that holds everything else together. Humanism has taught us to place man as the integration point. Our sinful nature, which is essentially selfishness, has taught us specifically to place our own individual person as our integration point.

## Chi Alpha Discipleship Tool

People once thought that the earth was the center of our solar system – that everything revolved around us. We have since learned that we actually revolve around the sun! We must see that we, as finite creatures, cannot sustain our world. Simply put, we are not big enough, strong enough or wise enough. Only the infinite God is capable of being the true integration point. This is where we run into trouble. We try to be the integration point – we try to be God. Then, because we are incapable, our lives turn out disastrously. The greatest thing we can know as a Christian is that God is God, and I am not. This means, practically speaking, that everything revolves around Him. Everything in our lives is centered on and filtered through how it affects God and His kingdom. In the FSU XA Family Code we say it like this – “Choose unselfishly for the highest good of God and his Kingdom.”

The denying of self spoken of here is not an occasional “not getting what one wants”. Jesus is speaking of taking up a cross. The cross meant only one thing then, and only one thing now – death. He speaks here also of losing one’s life. This is no isolated theme in Jesus’ teaching. He continually speaks of dying to self, crucifying self, burying self, etc... The man who tries to hold on to his life will forfeit it in the end. (Matthew 16:26)

### **God has a Fundamental Right on our Lives**

We will try to deal now with a little of the “why” behind this demand of God to be the center of our lives. Is it just vanity on His part, or are there legitimate reasons why He makes this demand?

What are some of the reasons you can think of?

We will discuss a few of these, which won’t be all the reasons, but will help us to see things in a better perspective.

1. The first and most obvious reason that God has a fundamental right to rule our lives is that He is our creator. As the creator, God has a right to the ownership of His creatures. “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.” Psalm 24:1-2 (NIV)
2. Even more central to our discussion here though is the fact that as Redeemer, He owns us! 1 Corinthians 7:23 says, “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.” In Romans 14:8, Paul says, “If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.” Again, in speaking of the return of Jesus, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:23 that He is coming back for those “...who belong to Him.” Peter testifies to the same principal. In 1 Peter 1:18-19, he reminds believers that they were redeemed with the “precious blood of Christ.” The Bible is clear. If you are a Christian, you are not your own, you have been bought at a price, and you belong to Him!
3. Finally, he has a right to rule because He is most qualified. In any situation, logic would lead us to choose the one most qualified to lead. Surely when we consider God’s omnipotence, omniscience, immutability, and the host of other characteristics of the infinite God, we will gladly choose Him as Lord and master of our lives.

## Chi Alpha Discipleship Tool

As we move on, you might be thinking that releasing lordship of your life to another is a scary thing. This is true for most people at first. But as we will see soon, it is only scary to the degree that you do not know Him. As your understanding of who God is increases, your fear of relinquishing lordship of your life to Him will decrease dramatically.

A.W. Tozer puts it this way in *The Pursuit of God*, "God being Who and What He is, and we being who and what we are, the only thinkable relation between us is one of full lordship on His part and complete submission on ours. We owe Him every honor that it is in our power to give Him. Our everlasting grief lies in giving Him anything less."

### **God's Right on Our Lives is Founded Upon His Value/Worth**

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)

There is much to be gained from a careful study of this parable, with many details that we won't get to today. However, the main point Jesus was trying to communicate with this story, and the one of the great pearl immediately following, is that of the overwhelming value of the treasure. It is the value of a thing that obligates. Winkie Pratney puts it this way, "God is the most beautiful, wonderful person in the whole universe. God's right to rule our lives is founded in who he is, not just what he does. What he does is wonderful," but who he is where his value lies.

This man seems to have almost stumbled on to the treasure in the field, while the merchant had been searching all his life for the pearl. Both men, however, immediately recognize the great value of their find. Notice that the man who found the treasure did not reluctantly sell everything he owned. He sold everything with joy! The point is that the treasure is so obviously more valuable that it is easy to lose all his other possessions. So he sells everything with joy and seemingly without a second thought.

Our fear of God's lordship of our lives can only be attributed to our lack of understanding of who He is. The more you know Him, the more you will love and trust Him with everything.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In your own words, express what we mean by "the external is always a result of the internal."
2. Is God the integration point of your life? Why or why not?
3. In what area of your life do you find it most tempting to make something other than God your integration point?
4. Identify two ways you can choose unselfishly for the highest good of God and his Kingdom this week.

### **Tips for the Road**

- Memorize Psalm 24:1

### **Chi Alpha Discipleship Tool**

- Spend some time this week thinking through why you do what you do and who you do it for. If you don't like your answers, identify changes you need to make in your life so that you can answer them differently.

