

LORDSHIP

Lordship Discussion Leaders' Notes

GOD HAS A RIGHT ON OUR LIVES (Lordship)

I. Selfish Christians

A.) Humanism's influence in the church –

- **Humanism** – man centered philosophy, – to the exclusion of God.
- **Christian Humanism** -The church influenced by the man-centered (or self-centered) thinking

B.) The Maniac – G.K. Chesterton, in conversation about men who believe in themselves:

“Shall I tell you where the men are who believe most in themselves? For I can tell you. I know of men who believe in themselves more colossally than Napoleon or Caesar. I know where flames the fixed star of certainty and success. I can guide you to the thrones of the Super-men. The men who really believe in themselves are all in lunatic asylums.”

He continues : *“Are there no other stories in the world except yours; and are all men busy with your business? Suppose we grant the details; perhaps when the man in the street did not seem to see you it was only his cunning; perhaps when the policeman asked you your name it was only because he knew it already. But how much happier you would be if you only knew that these people cared nothing about you! How much larger your life would be if your self could become smaller in it.”*

- We call this person a maniac, because it's lunacy to think the whole world revolves around you!

C. Christian Maniacs – Christians who believe everything revolves around them.

- **Our motives** in serving God-
- **How we choose churches** –
- **Sermon titles** –
- **“Why do you do the things you do, and who do you do them for?”**
God is a God of motive

Questions-

1. Do you agree with Chesterton's assessment of believing in yourself. Should a Christian believe in himself?

- The true Christian is a man or woman who is dead to self and alive to Christ.

2. Can you see the effects of humanism in Christendom? Give some examples of man-centered thoughts.

- Man is still the center of the church. ME is the integration point. Everything judged by how it affects ME

II. Where is The Lordship of Christ?

Rom 10:9 "... 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."

- Lord – the literal meaning – **supreme in authority**, or a **controller**.

3 Facts Concerning the Lordship of Christ:

A.) God is God and I am Not – The greatest thing we can know as a Christian!

B.) God Must Be the Christian's Integration Point

C.) Jesus demands to be Lord AND Savior; not just Savior

1.) Read **Matt 19:16-22** – the **Rich Young Ruler**.

2.) Also look at **Mark 8:34-36**

Questions –

1. What do we mean when we speak of our Integration Point?
 - the thing that everything in our life revolves around.
2. What was the rich young ruler unwilling to give up? How does this pertain to Lordship?
 - he refused to give up his money, **he wanted salvation without lordship.**
3. What does it mean to take up your cross? What was the cross a symbol of?
 - The cross meant only one thing then, and only one thing now – **Death!** The only way to God is to die to self – to selfishness.

III. God Has a Fundamental Right On Our Lives!

A.) There are many reasons Why God can demand we give Him Lordship, here are a few:

1.) Creator – *Ps 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

2.) Redeemer – 1 Cor 7:23 *“You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”*

- Rom 14:8 *“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.”*
- As Redeemer, He owns us! 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!

Questions-

1. Can you think of any other reasons God has a right on our lives beyond those listed above?
 - He is most capable of leadership, or **most qualified to govern** ... Omnipotence, Omniscience, His great Love...
2. Can you explain the idea of a Redeemer?
3. Is surrendering Lordship, or control, of your life to another frightening?
 - This is true for most people at first. But as we will soon see, it is **only scary to the degree that you do not know Him.**

IV. God’s right is founded upon His Value and Worth!

A.) Read Matt 13:44 – *“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.”*

Questions –

1. What is the treasure?
 - The Treasure is **God’s Presence** and Rule (Lordship) in the life of a Believer
2. Why was the man willing to sell everything with joy?
 - because of the overwhelming **value of the treasure.**

B.) Other Biblical and Historical Examples – of people who have seen His worth and embraced Lordship

The Apostle Paul – Read Phil 3:7-8

- Question** – Paul says his old life (living for self) was a waste compared to what?
- compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ Jesus** his Lord. Paul experienced the magnificence of Christ.

C.S. Lewis – “The Weight of Glory” mud pies

The Angels in Heaven – Read Rev 4:6-11

Question – Why do the angels of God continually freak out, year after year, at the mere sight of God?

- The angels have seen all that this world has to offer, but their eyes have also seen the final picture of beauty and worth.

King David – Read Psalms 84:10 “*Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.*”

Question – Do you think David really meant this?

Charles Finney – In writing of his experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Finney said:

“No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. These waves came over me, and over me, and over me, one after the other, until I recollect I cried out, “I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.” I said, “Lord, I cannot bear any more”

Winkie Pratney – universal characteristics of value/worth: beauty, permanence, uniqueness, rarity and power.

To summarize:

- To try to be the lord of your own life is humanistic and self-centered, not Christian, and basically lunacy.
- We are told to die to self. Jesus commands us to take up our cross in order to follow Him.
- God is the rightful owner of everything, especially of those He has purchased with the blood of Christ.
- His right is ultimately founded upon His infinite value and worth.
- Only those who don’t really know Him will want to maintain control of their own live.

Who’s the center of your life, you or Jesus? Why do you do the things you do, and who do you do them for? These things begin on the inside. Pray and ask Him to be Lord of all your life. Ask him to root out your self-centered nature and ideas. Ask Him to give you a revelation of His ultimate beauty and worth.

Eph 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.