

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



True, faith-filled stewardship flows naturally from a life surrendered fully to Jesus Christ. Lordship implies not only that His perspective matters, but that it's the only one that matters. When we accurately comprehend the gift of our eternal security, we gain an equally eternal perspective on what we own, how we spend, and where we invest.

The question of lordship reveals our attitude toward the Father's authority in every area of our lives. This course explores several key concepts around the central theme that per our claim to be His disciples, Jesus' rightful place as Lord must therefore affect our behavior and decisions.

- How do your attitudes about money and possessions reveal His Lordship in your life?
- How readily do you show honor by to the Father through your giving behavior?
- What do your financial decisions say about your perspective and sense of destiny?
- Is your house in order, i.e. does it reflect His will being done on earth as it is in Heaven?
- Where is your treasure – in this world or in His?
- How do your lifestyle & financial behavior evidence maturity of understanding in this area?

During the six weeks of this study, we will feast upon the rich fare of God's word (i) to gain a deeper appreciation for the things that please the Father (ii) and to grasp His plan to release blessing upon the earth through His church (iii)

THINK ABOUT IT: When God is first, nothing else matters.

Lordship happens when we set Christ above all. Seeking His Kingdom and righteousness pre-eminently (iv) is an instruction to all, but only the believer possesses the instinctive motivation to do so. The unredeemed soul lacks the capacity to be compelled by holy surrender; to the contrary, his or her will derives its momentum from the preservation, advancement, and gain to self.

The Psalmist declares, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." (v) Reality is, just like David, each of us has desired things or people ahead of God; we would show great foolishness to assert otherwise. So is David just ignoring the facts and pretending he's more holy than he really is? No, we know from scripture to the contrary. The takeaway here is profound: he understands and boldly confesses Truth even as he is training his heart to live it out. (vI)

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS
REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



TALK ABOUT IT: If most of us would lay ready claim to Jesus as Lord, why isn't there more evidence in the church that our relationship with God actually trumps all?

THINK ABOUT IT: Everything belongs to God.

Psalms 24 establishes that "the Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Agreement with this statement relies wholly on your belief that scripture is God-inspired, revealed to human authors, inerrant, living and active, and useful for teaching. (vii) Embracing such a Biblical worldview empowers the believer to relinquish his grip on material possessions, realizing the distorted value conferred upon them by the traditions and expectations of men.

Our ability to view items and holdings as "on loan and not our own" allows us to see ourselves as stewards of God's infinite wealth. (viii) In doing so, we hold Him in proper regard as Lord and Master. We aren't really in charge, but many of us, on most days, fail to bear convincing lifestyle evidence to this Truth.

TALK ABOUT IT: What specific items, properties, plans, or ideas do you still consider "yours"?

THINK ABOUT IT: His Lordship over your finances accurately reveals your financial priorities.

Who, or what, controls your purse strings provides a strong indication of your spiritual allegiance. We can maturely discuss and understand "discretionary spending" to encompass non-essential life activities such as eating out, family recreation and vacation, or the latest music downloads. Generally speaking, such items or activities are neither heathen nor holy, in the sense of the motivation on the front end, and the result or consequence on the back end.

For this reason, particularly where there is no clear Biblical directive on a matter, (ix) we must hold our own behavior and decision-making up to the penetrating light of His Word. If it resonates with the revealed heart, character, and love of Jesus, then He's Lord in that area of our lives.

TALK ABOUT IT: How are believers to know when to give, or to spend, and when not to? Does He really care about "little" stuff, like what shoes I buy?

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS
REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



DISCUSS

- [illegible]