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STUDY ONE

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

The story is told of the cathedral in Freiburg, Germany, which contained a famous organ. One day a man entered and asked to play it. The custodian resisted the request, but he eventually granted permission.

The guest sat down and began to play music which moved the sexton to take a seat and eventually the man began to weep over the beautiful sounds that emerged from the instrument he was entrusted to care and guard.

When the stranger stood up and began to leave, the custodian inquired, "Who are you?"

The visitor replied, "I am Mendelssohn."

The old man threw up his hands and cried, "And to think I almost refused to let you play my organ."

When Jesus Christ enters our lives, He turns disharmony to harmony and noise to music. He tunes us, removing the sins which cause discordant and

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displeasing sounds. However, He does not want to just tune our instrument—He wants to play it.

It is very detrimental to our Christian lives if we view Jesus Christ as only the piano tuner and not the piano player. He is not only Savior, He is Lord.

Too many unbelievers come to the Master for a tuning, rather than allowing Him to take control of their lives. This is a tragedy, for the Master can bring forth music that will be far superior to our own feeble attempts to produce the sounds of the redeemed.

We are the custodians of our lives. We grant permission or deny it. We issue clearance or withhold it. It is crucial that the Christian realize that a decision to accept Jesus Christ is only the initial step in God's plan. He wants to write a symphony through the gifts and talents and circumstances of our lives.

A custodian is usually a poor organ player! It is time to take inventory of who is in control of your life and all the resources it represents. Jesus is your Savior but He is also your Lord.

Walking into the Scriptures

Read Romans 10:9-13

This passage tells a person how to be saved. Notice how many times the term "Lord" is used in this salvation context.

1. What is the confession in Romans 10:9?

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2. According to Romans 10:12, Jesus Christ is Lord of which peoples?

3. Everyone is to call on whom to be saved?

Read Acts 2:36

1. What did the people do to Jesus Christ?

2. What did God make Jesus?

Read First Corinthians 6:18-20

1. What are the Corinthian believers told to flee from?

2. What analogy is used regarding the body of the Christian?

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3. Why does a Christian no longer have ownership of his or her body?

4. The body is to be used for what purpose?

Read First Corinthians 12:1-3

1. No one speaking by the Spirit of God says what about Jesus?

2. Those who say, "Jesus is Lord," do so under whose influence?

Walking It into My Life

Discipleship is not an easy road. Remember the broad and easy road leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). If Jesus is to be Lord of our lives, then He has given us a challenge which contains three elements:

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Read Luke 9:23

1. Challenge one: What does it mean to “deny oneself?” Compare your response to that of Jesus in Luke 14:33.

2. Challenge two: What does it mean to “take up your cross?” (Hint: Think of what Jesus did when He literally took up His cross.) How often is this to be done?

3. Challenge three: If we “follow Him,” who does the leading? Who is doing the leading in your life today? What practical steps can you take to ensure that you are following Jesus as the Lord of your life?

Read Mark 12:30

If Jesus is to be Lord, then He needs to be obeyed. Jesus was asked by the teachers of the law, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” In Mark 12:30 we find His response.

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1. Whom are we to love?
2. With what are we to love?
3. What part of the person is left out of loving the Lord?
4. List any parts of your life that do not demonstrate your love of the Lord. Prayerfully ask the Lord to grant you His power to bring these under His control.

Walking a Little Deeper

Read Acts 2:36

In this verse the apostle Peter did not proclaim Jesus only as Savior, but as both Lord and Christ. Using a Bible dictionary (your Bible may have one in the back), look up definitions for Jesus, Lord and Christ. What do these tell about Jesus?

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Read Philippians 2:6-11

1. What two actions, mentioned in verses 10 and 11, recognize the Lordship of Christ?

2. Memorize Philippians 2:10-11. Check here when memorized.