

SUMMARY OF "LORDSHIP" PRINCIPLES

God has a great and beautiful plan for my entire life. Am I willing to yield my personal rights to Him and give Him permission to orchestrate my life to His perfect ends?

1. FACTS:

- a. God says that as a Christian I have been **bought** (redeemed) from slavery to sin by the blood of His Son. That purchase has given Him legal **ownership** of my entire life. That He now owns me is an **absolute fact** that does **not** depend on my acknowledgment or acceptance of it. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ... *do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are **not your own**? For you have been **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body.* 1 Peter 1:18-19 ... *you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ**.*

- b. Salvation - speaks of a **Foundation, Jesus Christ**, upon which construction will take place. Lordship - The quality and duration of that construction depend on whom **I choose** as the architect and contractor. If I will give the Lord permission, allowing Him to **manage** my life, **He** will build a beautiful eternal house of gold, silver and precious stones on that foundation. That house will survive the judgment seat of Christ. However, if I am unwilling to let Him manage the construction, **I** will be building a **temporary** house of wood, hay and straw which will only last for the duration of my life here on earth, and will become ashes at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Daily Walk in Fellowship - The "**building materials**" that are available to the Holy Spirit fall into three categories, my "**time**", my "**energy**" and my "**possessions**" (both tangible and intangible possessions). The Lord has given me a "**free will**", which means that I have the privilege of moment by moment "**allowing**" Him to use those "**resources**" that He has granted me. But I am also free at any moment to "**deny**" Him use of any or all of those resources (building materials), during which time I will be using those same resources to build myself a temporary structure for this life here on earth. The Lord will not force me to let Him use my resources, even though He always has my best interest at heart.

1 Cor. 3:10-15 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a **foundation**, and another is **building** on it. But **each** man must be careful **how** he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the **fire** itself will test the **quality** of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a **reward**. If any man's work is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

Psalms 127:1 *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; ...*

Eccl. 3:14 *I know that **everything** God does will remain **forever**; ...*

- c. Before I became a Christian, I was enslaved by my human nature (inherited from Adam). I **always** resisted God and was **not able** to please Him. That **same** human nature still resides in me as a Christian. It is **not the least bit improved**. God did not repair my rebellious human nature, but rather He gave me a **new** divine nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit.
 Mat. 7:17-18 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the **bad tree** bears bad fruit. “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, **nor can a bad tree produce good fruit**.
 Gal. 3:1-3 *You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, **are you now being perfected by the flesh?***
 Gal. 5:17 For **the flesh sets its desire against** the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
- d. I should accept a role as a “disciple” (apprentice learner), allowing the Holy Spirit “**access**” to every area of my being.

From infancy I began to accumulate ideas and concepts about life, the world, etc. When I became a Christian those ideas and concepts did not disappear, but rather have remained in my mind much like written material on a blackboard. Some of those ideas and concepts will be in harmony with God, others will not be. Only the Holy Spirit knows what needs to be changed in my thinking. That is why each Christian needs to give the Holy Spirit “**access**” to his/her mental blackboard and be open to whatever changes **He** determines best. **Yielding up that authority** to Him speaks of “Lordship”, after which can follow the **process** of having my mind renewed, i.e. to increasingly view life as He views it.

Caution: A Christian who intentionally (or through ignorance) is unwilling to acknowledge His authority over his/her mind (understanding) will very likely adopt a perceived “Do” and “Don’t Do” list. That list would typically include what seems to be acceptable Christian behavior, based on the average spiritual expectations as modeled by older Christians. The danger is that fellowship with the Holy Spirit will be severely threatened when He speaks to the new believer about areas of thinking or behavior that are outside of the arbitrary parameters set up by the new Christian. The result is often a reoccurring cycle of disobedience, frustration, repentance and brokenness. This will continue until the **will** is surrendered.

Romans 12:2 ... **do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Luke 6:40 “A pupil (disciple) is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be **like** his teacher.

2. ILLUSTRATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY THAT DESCRIBE LORDSHIP.

- a. Relinquishing my independence - as in a wedding ceremony.

Marriage consists of an **event** (a wedding ceremony), followed by a **process**. The **wedding ceremony** represents a relinquishment of my right to make independent decisions, in favor of being joined (yoked) with another. The **marriage process** is designed to be a growing relationship, learning to live and walk in harmony with a spouse. This process represents the manner in which a Christian learns to live and walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:32 This **mystery** is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church**.

- b. Acknowledgment of His ownership of my life.
A conscious agreement with what God states to be true.
- c. An acceptance of His yoke (an event), followed by learning of Him (a process of learning to walk in harmony with Him). A relinquishment of your right to live and make decisions independently.
Matthew 11:28-30 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, 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.”**
- Note: Older Christians who have not yet acknowledged His Lordship tend to be threatened by the Master-servant relationship, imagining that it borders on “bondage”. A Christian needs to understand that the God-ordained Master-servant relationship is intended to be liberating.
- d. Entering His rest (as pictured in the O.T. Israelites).
At the burning bush, God laid out to Moses His original purpose for the Israelites.
Ex. 3:7-8a *The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, ... “So I have come down to deliver them **from** the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land **to** a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, ...*
The **1st group** was unwilling to accept God’s plan. (Num. 13:1-2, 23-33, 14:1-11, 19-24)
The **2nd group** was willing to entrust themselves into God’s care. (Josh. 21:44-45, 23:14)
Warning for me: Rom. 15:4 *For whatever was written in earlier times was written **for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* (see also Heb. 4:9-11)
- e. A wild mustang.
A wild mustang could be used to depict Lordship - The goal is to end up with an animal that is **available**, **trained** and **useful** to its owner (Master). But **first** the mustang’s **will** (his resistance to another’s authority) must be broken. Upon acceptance of another’s authority over it, the mustang is not yet considered to be the least bit trained, or useful. However, it now has a **mindset** (disposition, attitude) that will allow it to **begin** the **process** of being trained (transformed), which will over time produce an animal that is useful to its owner. Until the **will** (mindset, disposition) is changed the animal can never be trained.
Psa. 32:9 *Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have **no understanding**, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.*
- f. Car illustration
Imagine an auto which could represent the Christian’s life. The Christian is sitting in the driver’s seat, while Jesus sits in the passenger seat. Because God allows them to hold the steering wheel, many believers erroneously conclude that God is simply seated at their side, ready to help whenever they determine they have a need. Hence the bumper sticker, “*God is my co-Pilot*”. Even though the Christian may acknowledge that Jesus is holding the “title” to the auto, there is a fear of relinquishing control of the steering wheel. The Lord doesn’t want to be in the believer’s life as a co-Pilot, he wants to be in charge and direct the course of his life. “Lordship” is really an issue of “control”, and it is sad that so many believers are unwilling to let God have control of the steering wheel, because they’re afraid of where He might take them. If given control, God will always do what is in my best interest. God wants the believer to learn to keep his hands on the steering wheel, while actively and voluntarily relying on the Lord to provide directions.

3. ILLUSTRATION OF TWO DOORS

What does the typical new Christian have to face as he looks at the future?

Shortly after becoming a Christian I come to a fork in the road where I see a door, through which I can visualize the future. I see goals and material belongings that would seem to satisfy my needs and desires in this life, at least based on my previous experience. Those goals and material belongings don't appear to be unacceptably evil. In fact I've seen many Christians seeking after the same things. Using my God-given skills and intellect, those things appear to be obtainable, especially now that I can count on God to assist when needed. It seems reasonable that if God delivered me from unhappiness when He saved me, my happiness would now be one of His priorities.

But wait, I see through another door. It is as though there is a sign beyond the entrance with a message from Jesus saying, "Come follow Me, I have a better plan prepared for you". He seems to want me to trust Him alone to give me fulfillment and satisfaction in this life and beyond. He seems to be telling me that the things I've seen through the other door only give temporary satisfaction for this life, but what He has prepared for me has eternal value. Since I can't visualize anything He seems to be promising, how does He expect me to make a sensible evaluation? Does He really expect me to just trust Him on blind faith? That doesn't seem very reasonable since I'm just a new Christian and don't have much faith yet. Maybe further along I'll understand better, when I have more faith.

4. MY LIFE CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO THREE AREAS

There are THREE AREAS over which His Lordship needs to be considered, over my **possessions**; over my **body**; and over my **understanding**. Why three areas? Because a failure to yield to His authority over these three areas can keep a Christian from going on to maturity in Christ to bear eternal fruit.

Matthew 13:22 "... *the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries** and **riches** and **pleasures** of this life, and bring **no** fruit to maturity. (Luke 8:14 ... it becomes **unfruitful**.)*

5. IS GOD TOTALLY GOOD?

Can He be totally counted on?

What does the Bible say about God's character?

What does the evil one say about God's character?

Just as a typical small child recognizes the authority of a parent, we should expect the typical new Christian to easily understand that God ought to be in charge.

Is there a logical reason to not entrust myself totally to His authority? At the judgment seat of Christ what excuse could I offer for not doing so?

If God has already given me what was most valuable to Him, how can I ever conclude that He would deny me that which is of so much less value? ***He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*** (Rom. 8:32)

Many older believers tend to equate Lordship to "bondage", while most new believers will equate Lordship to "freedom" (if it is clearly and correctly explained).