

*Jesus is Lord*  
1 Peter 3:13-17

*Does Jesus Christ become Lord of our lives immediately upon salvation. Is it something believers grow into, or is it a relative thing that means different things according to how a person thinks or reasons? Can I be saved and do what I want, or must I surrender every area of my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? The gospel that Jesus declared through his death, burial and resurrection is a call to discipleship, a call to follow Him in submissive obedience no matter the cost. It goes way beyond making a decision to accept Christ or by praying a simple, brief prayer for salvation. It reaches into the very depth of our hearts to take us off the throne of our lives by putting Christ on the throne as master of our body, soul, and spirit. True discipleship calls men and women to follow Jesus with a heartfelt desire to live life His way by being obedient to His commands. It is not a halfhearted commitment, but a full commitment to set Jesus Christ apart as Lord. Whether we realize it or not, this occurred the second we believed upon him for the gift of eternal life. The process of sanctification teaches us what that means and how to apply it.*

**John 14:15** *If you love me, you will obey what I command.*

**Matthew 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to me, 'LORD, LORD,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'LORD, LORD, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

- I. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves living a life ruled by anxiety and fear over the uncertainty of living in a godless world that is under the control of the evil one (**1 Jn. 5:19**). Peter tells us that a sure way of keeping ourselves strong, fearless, and rooted in the faith is to be true to Christ. We do that by making sure that we bow down to no one except Jesus Christ. Nothing or no one is to **rule** the affection of our hearts except for Jesus. He will guide us, protect us and tell us how to live. But if we allow others, situations, or things to take his rightful place, then we open the door for fear, compromise, and anxiety to rule over us in ways that keep us defeated and unenthusiastic about the grace we've received.

1 Peter 3:13-15  
Romans 6:17-18  
Romans 10:9-10

**Isa. 8:12-13** *"Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread."*

- II. Setting apart Christ as Lord in our hearts means being zealous for doing good, having a willingness to suffer for taking a firm, unyielding stand on our faith, keeping ourselves from letting fear cause us to shrink back from living well for the Him, and having a willingness to open our mouths about the hope that we have in Christ whenever the opportunity presents itself. It is knowing that as his disciples, we represent him to the lost, which means that we are to be givers of the good things he gave us.

1 Peter 3:14-16

Jn. 10:38

Jn. 17:19

Jn. 20:32

Jn. 17:17

2 Tim. 2:21

Prov. 29:25

1 Jn. 3:19-21

***Philippians 2:10-11*** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- III. As Christ's disciples, we are to take a long, hard look at what evil looks like so that we can avoid it at all costs. We should also take a long, hard look at what God calls good, so that we can embrace it with all our hearts knowing what the powerful delivering grace of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ has saved us from. We have been set apart by Him to do good, and that is what he expects us to do.

1 Peter 3:17

**1 John 3:11** Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.