



# *EQUIPPING THE SAINTS*

## **THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

NOTES

### **Introduction**

When a person receives Jesus Christ, he is born again into the family of God.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 3:3)

(It is noteworthy that when John wrote his epistle, he referred to the recipients of his letter as “little children”—children in Christ.)

Coming to Christ simply as a little child is an exciting privilege. God does not expect us to achieve a certain degree of spiritual knowledge or skill in the Scripture before we come to Him. He receives us just as we are and loves us as His babes. However, God does expect that we will not remain babes forever, but will grow to full maturity. Any parent can understand God’s concern for us, His children. We all love our helpless newborn babies with all our heart, but we also hope and pray that they will grow normally to full maturity. Just as it grieves our hearts to see a child who does not grow, so it grieves God’s heart to see us remain spiritual infants all our lives.

Growth in Christ can only take place as we learn to know Him and as we make Jesus not only our Savior, but also the Lord of every part of our lives.

#### **DEFINITION OF LORDSHIP**

**Lordship is giving back to God the controls of my life so that He may use me to accomplish and fulfill His will through me.**

This Lordship issue is what the apostle Paul was speaking of in Galatians 2:20. Lordship is ceasing to live for myself and beginning to live by God’s power for God’s purpose.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

(Galatians 2:20)

The same idea is found in Romans 12:1 where Paul says that our bodies (or our earthly lives) are to be presented to Christ as a living sacrifice.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(Romans 12:1)

Paul's life itself was a living example of what he preached.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

(Acts 20:24)

Jesus has a plan for you! Just as Paul yielded his life to God so that he could live out that plan, you also can discover God's unique plan for your life as you yield your life to Him.

Because the Lordship of Christ is probably the most important aspect of the Christian life, we will be dealing with it at various points throughout this course. In this lesson, however, we will deal with basic *personal* Lordship. We must begin with our own person in making Christ Lord before we can submit to Him in other areas of our lives.

## Satan's Syllogism

### Major Premise

- God's plan is restrictive

### Minor Premise

- Restrictions are bad

### Conclusion

- God's plan is bad



A syllogism is a form of reasoning which uses a major and minor premise to form its conclusions. Here, we are going to examine the most evil syllogism of all time—Satan’s deceptive syllogism which led Eve astray and which continues to cause people to rebel against Christ’s Lordship.

As we have already discovered, God created man in His image with a WILL, an INTELLECT and EMOTIONS. These attributes—which are key ingredients in choice or decision-making require that God provide man with an environment where he could use them. God knew when He did this that men might disobey, but His great love and desire to give man His nature caused Him to provide that environment.

When Satan tempted Eve, he appealed to these three attributes. He played upon her **emotions** by causing her to desire what God had forbidden. He appealed to her **intellect** with his deceptive reasoning. And he at last caused her to use her **will** to break God’s law.

In appealing to her intellect or power to reason, Satan used a *syllogism* which he still uses successfully today.

### **Major Premise**

*God’s plan is restrictive.* (This is correct. God has placed restrictions upon man as He did with Adam and Eve.)

### **Minor Premise**

*Restrictions are bad.* (This is incorrect. God’s restrictions are for our good and are for the purpose of allowing us to use our will, intellect and emotions to choose for Him. He could have created robots which needed no restrictions because they were programmed to do only what He desired. But He didn’t. He created people made in His image.)

### **Conclusion**

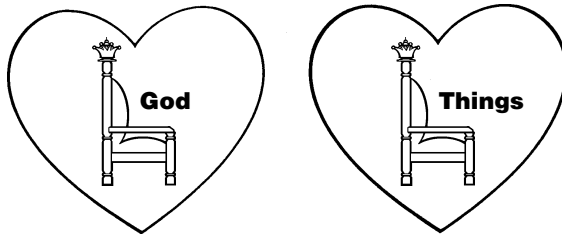
*God’s plan is bad.* (If one premise is incorrect, the conclusion will always be incorrect. But Eve bought the conclusion that God must be holding out on them and that disobedience to God’s plan would profit them.)

## **The Consequences**

When man chose to disobey God and to become independent of God’s will, sin entered the human race.

**The Very Simplest Definition Of Sin  
Is Independence from God.**

Since that terrible day of disobedience and independence, God has been forced from His rightful throne in the human heart. Things which God created and self have taken over the rulership of our lives. Men are constantly saying NO to God's will to pursue their own ambitions of material gain.



## The Solution

The only way to escape Satan's logic and begin to grow in the Christian life is by again crowning Christ Lord of our lives—turning the controls of our lives back to Him.

## How to Make Christ Lord

### Recognize His Universal Lordship

The entire message of the Bible is that Jesus is—in fact—Lord of all.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

(Acts 2:36)

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

(Philippians 2:9-10)

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

(Colossians 1:15-17)

Jesus is the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, and His will is being carried out according to the exact prophecies of God. History is

unfolding according to God's will, with or without man's approval and cooperation.

## **Recognize His Personal Lordship**

This ownership of Christ is true on at least three counts.

### **By Creation**

I was created by Him.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of  
God created he him; male and female created he them.  
(Genesis 1:27)

### **By Redemption**

I was purchased by Christ's blood.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the  
Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and  
ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:  
therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,  
which are God's.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

### **By Re-Birth**

I am His son or daughter.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to  
become the sons of God, even to them that believe on  
his name:

(John 1:12)

## **Recognize I Cannot be Independent**

True independence is not one of the options given to man. We can be independent from something, but that will automatically make us dependent upon or enslaved to something else. The moment we depart from God, we become slaves of sin and Satan.

Many times people think that they will not follow either God or Satan, but this is not possible. We are created to be dependent, and independence from one master means enslavement to the other. This is what Paul is trying to communicate in Romans, where he says:

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants  
to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether  
of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

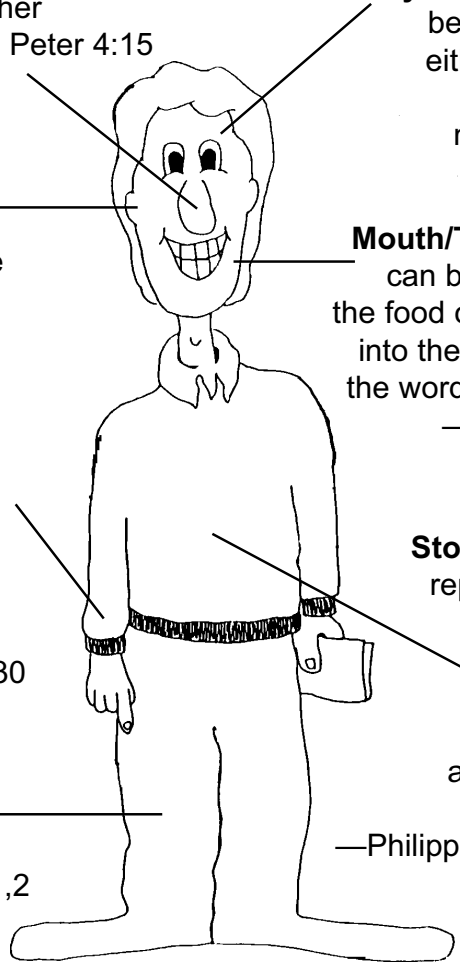
(Romans 6:16)

**Nose:** will not usually lead us into sin, but we can be caught putting our nose in other people's business—1 Peter 4:15

**Ears:** If Satan can't get in thru our eyes, he will try to get in thru our ears...what we hear will produce a mental picture —1 Timothy 5:19

**Arms & Hands:** If our hands are not occupied with God's intent, they become the workshop of the devil—Matthew 5:30

**Feet & Legs:** Satan loves to tempt us to walk into things that will drag us down spiritually—Psalm 1:1,2



**Eyes:** Sin always begins here—either with our physical or mental eyes —Job 31:1

**Mouth/Tongue:** We can be tempted by the food or drink going into the mouth, or by the words coming out —James 3:5,6

**Stomach:** This represents the humanly appetites —sensual pleasures and temporal gratification —Philippians 3:18,19

*Only YOU can decide to surrender yourself to Christ*

**Surrender Body Members Back to God**

This is a volitional act on the part of every believer. He alone can make that decision. He may make an initial surrender at the time he receives Christ, but as he grows in the Christian life he must yield each aspect of his life to God. We must each start with our own personal body and its members. As we yield them to the Lordship of Christ, we become free or independent from sin's control.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. . . . Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Romans 6:13-18)

When a person donates his body to science, he is saying that when he is dead, science has the right to do whatever they want with his body. They may experiment with it, dissect it, study it or use it for transplants. God *also* wants us to give our bodies to Him—not for the gory purposes for which science wants it—but for His perfect will to be accomplished through it.

Each of us needs to take some time with God and to surrender, one by one, our members to God.

Let us think for a moment about what this means.

### **Eyes**

Sin always begins here—either with our physical eye or our mind’s eye. Some stimulus causes us to have a picture in our minds which leads to temptation. If we deal with the problem here, we can overcome and have victory.

I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I  
think upon a maid?

(Job 31:1)

As we come to God, we will need to commit our eyes to Him—make a covenant with Him and ask His help to keep that covenant.

### **Ears**

If Satan cannot gain entrance to our minds and hearts through the physical eye, he will try to enter via the ear gate. What we hear can, in turn, produce the mental picture which leads to sin. Coarse jokes and stories, suggestive song lyrics, or simply listening to bad reports or gossip can give Satan the inroad he desires.

The Bible tells us not to entertain a critical report unless there are two or three others present to witness it.

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before  
two or three witnesses.

(1 Timothy 5:19)

Let us give our ears to God’s Lordship and listen to that which will edify.

### **Nose**

Usually we will not be led into sin through the sense of smell. But many people seem to have a “nose” for trouble. They seem constantly to have this member into areas where they have no business interfering. Both Peter and Solomon warn us about this.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

(1 Peter 4:15) +

He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.  
(Proverbs 26:17)

If we are having a battle in this area, we must commit this member to God and seek His help in winning the victory.

### **Mouth/Tongue**

It is a rare Christian who is not tempted in this area. The opportunities to sin with this two-sided member are legion. We can be tempted here in what goes into the mouth through eating or drinking, or we may sin by what comes out of the mouth in our words.

James tells us that although the tongue is one of the smallest members, it can get us into big trouble.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

(James 3:5-6)

If our mouths and tongues are submitted to Christ's Lordship, we can change and transform them into instruments of good for the edification of others.

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

(Isaiah 50:4)

The godly wife of Proverbs 31 was one who had evidently given this member to God.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

(Proverbs 31:26)

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

(Psalms 141:3)



**Arms/Hands**

God gave us hands for the purpose of doing good and for providing our needs through work.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

(Proverbs 31:20)

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

(1 Thessalonians 4:11)

They are not to be idle, for when they are, they become the target for Satan's temptations. *Idle hands are the Devil's Workshop.*

When our hands are not occupied as God intended, they can become occupied with evil. They may become involved in all manner of sin—from theft, murder and sexual misconduct to simply using them for selfish purposes rather than for helping others. Jesus was so aware of the power of the hands for evil that He dramatically illustrated His teaching as follows:

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

(Matthew 5:30)

As we make Christ Lord of our person, we will certainly need to dedicate our hands to Him.

**Stomach**

By the stomach we refer to all the bodily appetites of the human body. Sensual pleasure of all kinds can so take over our lives that we can become actual enemies of Christ—living only for temporal and physical gratification.

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

(Philippians 3:18-19)

Many Christians may feel self-righteous because they don't seem to be tempted by things like alcohol and illicit sex, but they may be very undisciplined—even gluttonous—in their eating habits. Each of us needs to honestly and carefully examine our bodily appetites and drives before God to make sure He is in control.

## Feet/Legs

Satan loves to control our feet and legs so that we will walk into things that drag us down and cause us to compromise our relationship to Christ. He loves to take us *window shopping* at the department store of sin. We may not intend to *buy anything*, but more frequently than not we fall victim to the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes as we stroll with our enemy.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

(Psalms 1:1-2)

Are you walking with Jesus, or do your feet and legs need to be committed to Him?

## How to Surrender

- In a special act of dedication, yield each member specifically to God for His control.
- Ask God to cleanse and accept ownership for the member.
- Ask God to set a watch over the member and, by His Holy Spirit, warn you when you are under attack.
- Ask God to give you the desire to walk in victory and to strengthen the will to resist temptation.
- Pray for victory and take active measures to defend yourself from attack (i.e. Scripture memory).
- Act offensively (review your verses, get with a Christian friend).

