

Myth #3 - Jesus Can Be Your Savior But Not Your Lord

This is another one of Satan's lies that has greatly compromised and weakened the church. Before we expose this lie, let's see what Jesus said it means to follow Him. Jesus said if you want to follow Him, you must take up your cross, deny yourself, lay down your life, and give up everything for His sake (Matthew 10:38; Mark 8:34; Luke 14:33; John 12:25). In other words, if you want to be Jesus' disciple, you must turn over complete ownership and control of your life to Him. It means you acknowledge Jesus Christ is your Lord and Master and you are His bondsman. It means you must give up your personal interests, attitudes and desires for Jesus' interests, attitudes and desires. It means in every area of your life and in every decision you make - where you will live, your choice of friends, your pursuit of education and career, your money, your choice in marriage - you will seek and obey Jesus Christ's will for your life. It means you want to know Jesus Christ and identify with His kingdom more than anything this world has to offer, even if it means your persecution and death.

Many people who consider themselves Christians think as long as they asked Jesus to be their Savior sometime during their life, they are guaranteed a ticket to heaven. They say that they believe Christ died to forgive them for their sins, but as far as Christ's Lordship is concerned, they say they are "working" toward that goal. However, the Lordship of Jesus Christ is not an option for Christians. If you believe in the gospel of Christ, then Jesus Christ must be your Lord right now and not in the remote future. The Bible teaches that Jesus is your Lord and you are saved or He is not your Lord and you are not saved. Some Christians think that receiving Christ is like buying a car - you can get the basic model or the more expensive model. In other words, you can choose basic Christianity with Jesus as your Savior or you can choose the more costly, discipleship option with Jesus as your Lord. The Bible recognizes no such option. The Bible says Jesus Christ must be both your Lord and Savior. "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36)." The first century church also did not practice any such option. The early disciples clearly proclaimed that Jesus Christ was Lord (Acts 10:36; Romans 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:5). In fact, in the New Testament, the title "Lord" is used in conjunction with Jesus Christ nearly 600 times; whereas the title "Savior" is used only 15 times.

The Bible Declares Jesus is Lord and King

The Bible declares Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1, 14; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20; Isaiah 9:6). Since Jesus Christ is God, then He most certainly is Master, Lord and King (Luke 2:11; 19:38; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16). Therefore, we cannot know

Jesus Christ unless we know Him as Lord and King. Jesus said, "You say correctly that I am a king... for this reason I have come into the world (John 18:37). The Bible says Jesus Christ is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come (Ephesians 1:20-21)." The Bible calls Jesus Christ "the Lord of lords and the King of kings (Revelation 17:14)." Jesus Himself said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth (Matthew 8:18)." The Bible proclaims that, at the end of this age, everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippines 2:11). "For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living (Romans 14:9)."

Jesus Cannot Be Your Savior Unless He is Your Lord

The Bible clearly says you cannot be saved unless Jesus Christ becomes your Lord (Romans 10:9). You cannot ask Jesus to save you if you are unwilling to turn complete control of your life over to Him. Jesus must be your Lord for you to be saved and, once you are saved, Jesus must be your Lord for you to be sanctified. The Bible says, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts (1 Peter 3:15). Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God (Matthew 9:35; Mark 1:14). This is the message of the Sovereignty of God and the Kingship of Christ in our life. Once again, the Kingship of Christ is not an option for Christians. Jesus said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I say (Luke 6:46)?" God wants to give His kingdom to you but you cannot receive it unless Christ is your King (Luke 12:32; Acts 4:12). You cannot receive Christ's Spirit apart from also receiving Christ's Sovereignty. The Bible is clear: if we say we believe in Jesus Christ and love Him, we must obey Him. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command... Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me... if anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching... he who does not love Me will not obey My teaching (John 14:15-24). Our obedience to Christ's commands is the proof that we really are His disciples.

The focus of the early disciples was on Christ their risen King and His Sovereign Kingdom. They knew when they were born again they had changed kingdoms; God had rescued them from Satan's dominion and transplanted them into Christ's Kingdom (Colossians 1:13). They didn't merely have a cultural change. They didn't just outwardly change their old worldly lifestyle for a new "Christian" lifestyle. They knew Christianity meant Christ reigned in their lives. They knew discipleship meant they were bondslaves of Jesus Christ because He had ransomed them with His own blood (Romans 6:22; 1 Peter 2:16; 1 Corinthians 6:20). Out of their love for Jesus Christ, they gave Him their entire being - their whole heart and soul and body. This is what it means to make Jesus your Lord.

Every Child of God Should Desire Christ To Be Their King

A deep, spiritual desire to submit to Christ's Kingship should increasingly motivate every child of Christ's kingdom. But here is the dilemma, which every citizen of His kingdom must face: the unrenewed mind or unconverted soul is an unsubmitted soul. Therefore, self-preservation, self-autonomy and self-fulfillment are deeply ingrained habits. They cannot be overcome by sheer willpower. They can only be overcome by trusting in the truth of God's Word that we have already been delivered from our self-sovereignty by Christ's death on the cross (Romans 6:3-11). Jesus Christ has gone before us and made our absolute surrender to God's will possible. We not only have been delivered from sin so that we might go to heaven; we have been delivered from sin so that Christ might rule right now in our hearts by faith while we live here on earth. This is the wonderful and powerful deliverance, which Christ has purchased by His death for all those who truly believe in Him. Christ's death on the cross has made possible this great and glorious deliverance of our whole being – spirit, soul and body. All that is needed for us to receive this deliverance is to believe that Christ has already procured this deliverance from sin for us. When Christ died on the cross, he made the way possible for us to become free of our own self-rule and enter fully into the kingdom of God, in which each citizen is joyfully and lovingly submitted to God's perfect will.

Jesus told His disciples a parable of a king who was far away and whose servants didn't want him to return and *reign* over them (Luke 19:11-27). As long as the king remained away, his sovereignty didn't threaten them. In the same way, many professing Christians want Jesus to remain a far off King so they can honor Him with their lips from a safe distance but not be threatened by His Sovereign demands on their life. They want to enjoy the benefits of belonging to Christ's kingdom without the cost of losing their soul-life to serve Christ the King (Matthew 10:38-39). At the end of the parable, Jesus said when the king finally returned, he ordered all those who rejected his reign over them to be slain. This is really a story about the end of the age. When Christ returns, He will gather out of His kingdom all those who practiced lawlessness and never allowed Him to become King in their lives and throw them into the eternal fires of hell (Matthew 7:21-23; 13:36-42; 47-50; 25:41). "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power when He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10)."

The Cross is the Secret to Coming Under Christ's Kingship

The revelation of what happened on the cross of Christ is the secret to coming under the Lordship of Christ. When you see that God has included you in His Son's death on the cross, you are freed to be Christ's bondsman (Romans 6:6-22). When you know your old sinful nature has been crucified with Christ, then Christ your King can reign in you (Galatians 2:20). If you do not yet know that you have died with Christ and that you no longer have a sinful nature, you will never fully experience Christ's Sovereignty. Jesus said His kingdom would be given to a people who produce its spiritual fruit (Matthew 21:43). Jesus warned that anyone who calls Him Lord but still willfully and persistently practices sin would receive no entrance or inheritance in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). You cannot just say Jesus is your Lord and not mean it. This would be, in effect, taking Christ's name in vain, or uselessly without sincere faith. "The Lord declares, 'These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me (Isaiah 29:13).'" Christ's Sovereignty must permeate your entire being and Jesus must become your Lord in all your thoughts, words and deeds. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened (Matthew 13:33)." If you truly believe Jesus is your Lord, then the fruit of your faith will be sanctification that leads to eternal life with Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. The Bible says, "Now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to sanctification, and the result is eternal life (Romans 6:22)." The only way you can be born again of the Spirit is if you receive Jesus Christ as both your Savior and your Lord. If you have not made a clear decision to ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord, the Bible clearly says you are not saved. This is the whole gospel of Christ. If this is not yet your experience, believe in God's word of deliverance right now: make Jesus your Sovereign Lord and King by faith in His completed work on the cross, and fulfill the destiny which God has ordained for every true citizen of His eternal kingdom.

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