



Statement of Faith

The Lordship of Christ - Part 1

The Lordship of Christ – The Christian life has at its core the desire to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, being eager to always honor and please God. This is accomplished by the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer as they walk by faith. Christians are God’s instrument to lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ and to nurture and disciple them to maturity. Christians live always and continually striving against sin and by God’s grace are being transformed progressively into the image of Christ. Self-sacrificing love to God and others, humility, joy, the desire to seek peace, the ability to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them, are fruits which come from the true Christian’s life. Genuine faith will produce good works, although they in no way merit salvation. (John 20:28, Rom 6:12-23, 2 Cor 3:18, Gal 5:22-24, Phil 2:5-11, Col 1:10-12, 3:12-17, Heb 13:21, James 2:14-26, 2 Pet 1:5-9, 1 John 3:21-24)

The Christian life has at its core the desire to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, being eager to always honor and please God. In coming to Christ one must recognize and receive Him for who He is. He is the Savior of the world, having given His life as a ransom for sins. Because He Himself is God, He is also Lord and Master, even the very Judge of the living and the dead.

Romans 14:9 - 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that **He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.** NASB

Eph 1:19-22 - 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 **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. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things** to the church, NASB

2 Tim 4:1-2 - 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, **who is to judge the living and the dead,** and by His appearing and His kingdom: NASB

The fact of the matter is, Jesus is Lord whether one recognizes it or not. Just because one has not submitted their life to Him, does not mean that one is not accountable to Him. For He will come to judge every person for the deeds done in the body, as the gospel declares. And He alone possesses the authority to determine one’s eternal destiny.

Ultimately every person that has ever lived will bow their knee before Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as Lord. That day will either be a day of glorious celebration for the faithful, or day of shocking terror for the wicked and unbelieving.

Philippians 2:9-11 - 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father. NASB

Because salvation is the work of God in regeneration, and the believer has been given a new nature and is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, the believer therefore desires to please God and to keep His commandments. It is the chief goal of one who worships and esteems God to live a life which imitates God and conforms to His character. This is reverberated throughout the scripture with exhortations and commands which continually call us to become like Christ in our character and behavior.

Ephesians 5:1-2 - 5:1 Therefore **be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ** also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB

1 Peter 1:15-16 - 15 but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." NASB

This is a theme in the teaching of Jesus, that true faith produces good works consistent with that faith. In fact, those who do not submit to Christ as Lord, or reject Him by disobedience, are condemned as not possessing salvation. A man's good deeds are proof of his true repentance and a man's evil deeds prove him to be a child of the devil.

Matthew 7:21 - 21 "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven**; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. NASB

Titus 1:16 - 6 They profess to know God, **but by their deeds they deny Him**, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed. NASB

1 John 3:9-10 - 9 **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: **anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor the one who does not love his brother. NASB

It is clear from scripture that love for God produces obedience to His commandments. This obedience is the result of regeneration in the life of the believer, which is produced by a willing submission to the Lordship of Christ.

1 John 5:3 - 3 **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments**; and His commandments are not burdensome. NASB

John 14:15,21 - 15 "**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments**. 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." NASB

This is accomplished by the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer as they walk by faith. It is clear from scripture that the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer produces the character of God in them. This is referred to as the "fruit of the Spirit" and includes but is not limited to love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. NASB

These are byproducts of submission to the Lordship and commandments of Christ. Being our Lord and Master He calls us to love one another(John 13:34), to be filled with His joy(John 15:11), to be peace-makers(Mark 9:50), to be patient (Matt 5:7), to be kind (Luke 10:37), to be gentle(Matt 5:5), and the list goes on and on. This good fruit being born in our lives is the God's work of sanctification coming to pass as we walk by faith in obedience to Christ.

1 Peter 5:10 - 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, **will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.**

2 Thess 3:3-5 - 3 But the Lord is faithful, and **He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.** 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. 5 And **may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.** NASB

Heb 13:20-21 - 20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 **equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. NASB

Christians are God's instrument to lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ and to nurture and disciple them to maturity. It is clear from scripture that God's ordained method for the expansion of the church is by the preaching of the gospel to be carried out by the local church. We call this evangelism.

Mark 16:15-15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**" NASB

Luke 24:46-49 - 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and **that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.** 48 "You are witnesses of these things. 49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." NASB

It is also clear from scripture that the followers of Christ have the clear mandate to make disciples in the manner in which Jesus instructed the twelve.

Matthew 28:19-20 - 19 "**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." NASB

This is what Jesus taught His disciples to do. It was to preach and to teach and to equip the saints to do this "work of the ministry." In fact, this is the role of the Apostle, prophet, evangelist and pastor-teacher, that is, to equip the church for this work so that the body of Christ may be built up into the maturity of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-14 - 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. NASB