



INJOY
Stewardship Solutions™



THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE



THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

AND THE

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE



Text: Matthew 16:13-17; Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:9-11

Introduction:

Recorded in chapter 16 of Matthew's gospel is a fascinating interchange between Jesus and His disciples. (Matthew 16:13-17)

In verse 16 of this passage, Peter makes an electrifying declaration, stating unequivocally that Jesus Christ is God Himself.

Sometime later, in his dynamic sermon on the Day of Pentecost, Peter once again declared this truth: "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36)

Jesus posed a question in Matthew 16:15, a question which is just as relevant and just as provocative as the moment it was first asked "Who do you say I am?" Jesus asked His disciples. He asks the same of us today. How do those of our generation answer the question? Who do they say Jesus Christ is?

Some say He is a great prophet.

Some say He is a great teacher.

Some say He is a wonderful moral example.

Some say He is an outstanding philosopher.

Christian apologist Josh McDowell says that there are actually only three viable possibilities: Either Jesus Christ was a liar, or He was a lunatic, or He was just who He claimed to be: the Lord God.

C. S. Lewis, the eminent English scholar who was for many years an agnostic, wrote this:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic-on a level with the man who says that he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to"

All of the evidence, if carefully and honestly judged, will lead to the conclusion that Jesus Christ is, in fact, exactly who He said He was.

If He is Lord, then we are His servants. And, according to His word, we are also stewards to whom He entrusts everything that we have and everything that we are. There is an incontrovertible connection between His Lordship and our stewardship. Wise stewards recognize the importance of who Jesus Christ is, and they realize the implications of His Lordship in their stewardship.

THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE



I. Stewards Recognize the Importance of Christ's Lordship.

A. He is important because He is the only way into fellowship with God. (John 14:6)

Jesus Christ is the only Way.

Jesus Christ is the only Truth.

Jesus Christ is the only Life.

B. He is important because He is the only source of real freedom. (John 8:36; Galatians 5:1)

The freedom He gives is spiritual freedom.

The liberation He enables sets us free from sin's bondage and death penalty.

C. He is important because He is the only source of forgiveness. (Acts 5:31; 13:38; Ephesians 1:7)

II. Stewards Realize the Implications of Christ's Lordship.

A. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is understood through insight given by the Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 16:17; 1 Corinthians 12:3)

B. The Lordship of Jesus Christ implies that we are under His authority.

We are ultimately answerable to Him.

We are ultimately accountable to Him.

C. The steward says: If Jesus Christ is Lord, then I am a slave.

I belong to Him.

I am totally dependent upon Him.

I am subject to His desires and His will..

D. The steward says: If Jesus Christ is Lord, then He must be preeminent in my life. (Colossians 1:18)

He is the boss, not me.

He is relevant to "all things" in my life and my world.

E. The steward says: If Jesus Christ is Lord, then I must adapt to Him (and not He to me). (Philippians 2:5-8; 2:12)

THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE



Illustration: J. B. Phillips, in his brilliant book, *Your God Is Too Small*, says that people (including many Christians) get wildly inaccurate ideas about who God is. They perceive Him as. Resident Policeman. Parental Hangover. Grand old Man. The Meek and Mild one. The Managing Director. The Man Upstairs... The Pale Galilean. And many others. All of these reflect a God who is not the God of the Bible, and a Jesus who is much too small.

F. The steward says: If Jesus Christ is Lord, then I must have His attitude. (Philippians 2:5-8)

The attitude of sacrifice

The attitude of servitude. (Also Mark 10:45)

The attitude of humility.

The attitude of obedience.

Conclusion:

The steward also realizes that Jesus Christ will ultimately be acknowledged as Lord by everyone-every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess who He is. (Philippians 2:9-11)

Stewardship is all-encompassing because Christ is all-encompassing. Nothing in life is out of the realm of His Sovereignty. "My money, my things and 'my interests are actually His-and I am managing all these things for Him.

For the steward who sees life through the prism of Christ's love and grace, the by-product is perfect peace, real satisfaction and true Joy.

