

IN EPHESIANS

CHRIST

Lesson #31

7x1x3

(Ephesians 4:5)



ONE Lord (Ephesians 4:5)

- **LORD:** Ruler, Owner, Master.
- **TRUTH:** There is only ONE Lord. Christ is the LORD of **ALL**. (Acts 10:36)
 - Everyone and everything is His **servant**.
 - All men are to **submit** totally to Christ, as LORD. (Philips 2:9-10)
- In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as Saviour **ten** times, but over **700** times as Lord.
- In the book of Acts, Jesus is referred to as Saviour **two** times, but **92** times as Lord.
- When the two titles of Jesus are used together “Lord” always precedes “Saviour” placing the emphasis on “LORD”.
- Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:3, the Holy Spirit moves one to claim that Jesus is Lord. The “natural man” (unsaved man) does not have the Spirit. (1 Cor 2:14)
- In Romans 14:9, Paul tells it was for this end, Jesus is Lord, that Jesus came, lived, died and rose again.
- In Philippians 2:9-11, God gave Jesus the name “Lord” and that every knee should bow to Him!
- In Acts 2:36, God made Jesus Lord and Christ. A person cannot **make** Christ their Lord, **HE IS THEIR LORD!**
- In Acts 10:36, Jesus is **LORD OF ALL**.
- At His birth, the angel announced that Jesus was LORD. (Luke 2:14)

We are to Confess, “Jesus Is Lord” . . . (Romans 10:9)

- “IF” is conditional. If there is no confession there is no salvation!
- “confess” ὁμολογέω homologeo {hom-ol-og-eh'-o} literally means “to say the same thing as another”; “to agree with”; “to declare openly”.
- (Amos 3:3) One **cannot** walk **with** Christ without being in agreement with Him.
 - “to walk” means “to live”.

- (Micah 6:8) God **requires** His people to **walk** with Him. NOT to walk with Him is **sin**. (See Deuteronomy 10:12-14; 1 John 2:6)
 - Consider Enoch (Genesis 5:18-24) “Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him.” **What does it mean to walk with God?**
- ① It means **RECONCILIATION**.
 - Before Enoch walked with God he “walked according to course of this world . . .” (Ephesians 2:2).
 - He walked in his own way. (Isaiah 53:6)
 - **BUT** after the birth of Methuselah he **TURNE**d and **WALKED** with God.
 - He was **RECONCILED TO GOD**. (2 Cor 5:20; Romans 5:10-11)
 - God did not conform to Enoch but Enoch conformed to God!
- ② It assumes a **COMMON NATURE**.
 - “Light has no communion or fellowship with darkness.” (2 Cor. 6:14; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5; 1 Peter 2:9; **1 John 1:6**)
 - A carnal mind is enmity against God and is not subject to God! (Rom 8:7)
 - For one to walk with God must mean that there has been a **CHANGE in NATURE**. (2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:4)
 - This must mean that there has been a **putting away or blotting away** of sin – because sin separates us from God. (Hebrews 9:26; Isaiah 43:25)
- ③ It assumes a **SURRENDERED WILL**.
 - “Not my will, but Yours, O God!” (Matthew 26:42)
 - “I delight to **DO** Your will.” (Psa. 40:6; 119:24, 47, 92; 112:1; Jn 4:34; Rom 7:22)
 - “Take My yoke upon you.” (Matthew 11:29-30)
- ④ It assumes **SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP**.
 - The word “**walk**” suggests a steady forward progression.
 - Only as we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, can we say that we have fellowship with Christ. (1 John 1:6-7)

To Confess “Jesus Is LORD” Means . . .

- ① We **agree** that Jesus is GOD (YAWHEH).
 - In the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint) Yahweh is referred to a **KURIOS** (LORD). (Zechariah 12:1, 10)
 - The disciples and New Testament writers understood this and did not hesitate to call Christ “KURIOS”.
 - In Matthew 22:41-46, Christ quotes David in Psalm 110:1 and applies the first “LORD” to Himself.
 - Jesus Christ is **GOD**. (Romans 9:5; 1 John 5:20; John 1:1; 20:28; Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:6; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8-13; 2 Peter 1:1)

→ All those who “call on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13) Paul was quoting Joel 2:32, just as Peter did in Acts 2:21.

② We **agree** that Christ is **Saviour**.

→ We are claiming that Christ was victorious over sin, forces of evil, Satan, and death. (1 John 3:5, 8; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Cor 15:54-55)

→ We are claiming that Christ, as Lord **and** Saviour, now has absolute **authority** and **power** over all flesh, all beings, and all things. (Ephesians 1:21-22; 3:10; **1 Peter 3:22; Col 2:15; John 17:2; Matt 28:18; Heb 2:8; John 3:35; 5:22-27; 13:3**)

③ We **agree** that Christ is **Ruler, Owner** and **Master** of our **whole** lives.

→ (Matthew 11:29) “Take My yoke and learn from Me” – Christ is the teacher of our **minds**. Our **minds** are His.

→ (Luke 6:46; John 14:15, 21-24; 15:14) Our **wills** belong to Him. **To confess Christ “Lord” we agree that we owe absolute OBEDIENCE to Him.**

→ (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2-3; Isaiah 45:18; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11) Our **time** and our **lives** belong to Him!

★ We echo Paul’s confession, “What shall I do, Lord?” (Acts 22:10)

★ We agree that our lives are **NOT** our own. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

★ We **agree** that we are no longer to live for ourselves but for our Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:15)

④ We **agree** that we are His **ambassadors**. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

→ The message of our Lord that we as ambassadors bring to a sinful world:

“Be reconciled to God!”

(2 Corinthians 5:20)

“Confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord!”

(Romans 10:9)

Surrender!

(Philippians 2:9-10)

ONE Faith (Ephesians 4:5)

- This is the most difficult “ONE” to preach.
- This is **the faith** that was “once for all delivered to the saints”. Jude 3
- This is **the faith** that we as Christians are exhorted “to contend earnestly for”. Jude 3
- “Faith” here is OBJECTIVE faith – the set of truths set down by God for His Church.
- TRUTH is God’s Word. (John 17:17)



- God’s Word is profitable for DOCTRINE, REPROOF, CORRECTION, INSTRUCTION, and EQUIPPING. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- God’s Word is God’s will and we are commanded to DO God’s Will. (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)
- If we do not DO we are only deceiving ourselves. (James 1:22)
- Truth ignored in the Old Testament:
 - Jeremiah 5:1; 7:28; 9:3; Isaiah 59:14-15; Hosea 4:1
 - Consequences: God sending judgment upon HIS people.
 - ★ We have to ask ourselves, ‘Does truth matter?’
- We all we be judged in accordance with God’s truth. (Psalm 96:13)
- In order to preach this one must travel back in time to the first century and hear Paul communicate this true the to faithful saints at Ephesus.
- **THE PROBLEM:** There has been over 2,000 years since Paul wrote this. In this time were warned that **many** false teachers would come and **many** people would be deceived by **counterfeit** gospels.
 - Matthew 24:4, 5, 10-13, 24; 7:15;
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - 2 Peter 2:1-2
 - Acts 20:30
 - 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:13
 - Paul’s warning of “another” gospel: Galatians 1:6-10.

The Central Element of Our Faith

- JUSTIFICATION! Taught by Paul. Rediscovered during the Protestant Reformation. Constantly under attack.

Doctrine of Justification Stated:

Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone. (Baptist Catechism, 1689)

God Is Just and the Justifier (Romans 3:23-26)

- One of the most profound passages of the Bible:
 - ☞ (v. 23) ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - ☞ (v. 24) God’s people are justified (declared righteous) “**freely** by His (God’s) grace”. The Greek word for “freely” is translated as “without cause” in John 15:25.
 - ☞ (v. 24) Justification is through the REDEMPTION that is in Jesus Christ.
 - ☞ (v. 25) GOD sent His Son to be a PROPITIATION by His blood through faith. (1 John 4:10)
 - ☞ (v. 25) GOD had (in the past) PASSED OVER sins! (See 2 Samuel 12:13)

☞ (v. 26) GOD did this to DEMONSTRATE (to show) His RIGHTEOUSNESS that He might be JUST and the JUSTIFIER.

How Did God Do This (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- God ordained (appointed) Jesus to be the HEAD (or representative) of His people, just as He had ordained (appointed) Adam to be the HEAD (or representative) of “his” people.
- As Adam LIVED as our representative, so too, Christ LIVED and DIED as our representative. **SEE ROMANS 4-5**
- A careful look at 2 Corinthians 5:21:
 - ☞ GOD is the subject of this verse. GOD is in control and GOD is doing the WORK.
 - ☞ Here, GOD is **imputing** our sins unto Christ (Isaiah 53:6) and, in like manner, **imputing** God’s (Christ’s) obedience or righteousness unto us!
 - ☞ Just as Christ KNEW or had no sin of His own, so we “knew” or had no righteousness of our own.
 - ☞ Christ was MADE SIN by having our sins placed on His account, and it was not by any criminal conduct of His own that He was “made sin”.
 - ☞ **SO TOO**, it is NOT by any pious act of our own that we become “righteous”.
 - ☞ Christ was NOT “made sin” by an infusion of DEPRAVITY, **NOR** are we “made righteous” by the infusion of holiness.
 - ☞ As GOD dealt with Christ “as” a sinner or, worse yet, a “mass of sins” in justice, **so too**, GOD deals with us “as” righteous persons in justice.
 - ☞ Though GOD is the One here “making” Christ sin, we must also remember that Christ ACCEPTED this mission from the Father – see Hebrews 10:7

Justification: Declaring Righteous

- ① A BLOTTING out of all sins. (Isaiah 43:25)
- ② An IMPUTING of Christ’s righteousness. (Romans 4:6, 11, 22)

How Are We Justified?

- Consider the following verses:
 - “being justified freely by **His grace**” (Romans 3:24)
 - “being now justified by **His blood**” (Romans 5:9)
 - “being justified by **faith**” (Romans 5:1; 3:28, 30; Galatians 2:16; 3:8, 11)

The Result of Justification

Justification is ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE, and FINAL

- “It is GOD who justifies!” (Romans 8:33) – He is the SUPREME JUDGE.
- Whatever GOD does it is FOREVER – nothing can be ADDED to it and nothing can be TAKEN AWAY from it. – Ecclesiastes 3:14
- Those who are justified and justified from **all things!** Acts 13:38-39)
- Whomever GOD justifies, He glories! (NO EXCEPTIONS) Romans 8:30.
- There is **NOW NO CONDEMNATION** for those IN CHRIST. Romans 8:1
 - Justification happens to those who were once UNDER CONDEMNATION (John 3:18) and NOW are UNDER NO CONDEMNATION.
- What God has done, NO ONE can REVERSE it!! Isaiah 44:27; 43:13
- The sentence of the LAW – “Thou shalt surely die” **cannot** be executed upon the sinner’s SURETY and the sinner.
- ONCE a person has been justified he is given EVERLASTING (eternal) LIFE! (John 5:24) – A person with ETERNAL LIFE can **never** DIE!
- Christ has PROMISED that He will **never** leave or forsake His own. (Heb. 13:5)
- Those who are JUSTIFIED are GIVEN **GOD righteousness** as a GIFT. (Romans 5:17; see also Isaiah 61:10)
- With His **one** offering He **perfected forever** those who are sanctified. (Heb 10:14)
- Those who are justified are **SEALED** with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5)

ONE Baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

- The word “baptism” or the verb “to baptize” is βάπτισμα or βαπτίζω means “to immerse”; “to submerge”.
- Christ commanded the Church to “Go make disciples of all nations, **immersing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to do all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19)
 - Baptism is for those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit – already believers. (Acts 10:47)
- In the 1st Century there was no sprinkling, pouring, or baptizing of infants.
- In the 1st Century the saints understood that one does not become a Christian by being baptized, but one is baptized because he/she **is** a Christian.
- In the 1st Century the saints understood that the rite of baptism was a graphic confession of what Christ did for them in dying, being buried, resurrected and that **immersion** demonstrated this.



- In many places, new Christians risked their careers, and even their lives in being publicly baptized. Despite these risks they demonstrated their love for Christ in obeying His command.
- Biblical baptism is by the correct mode (immersion); the correct one being baptised (a disciple/follower/believer of Christ); and the correct administrator (the Church).

- We are no longer enslaved to sin. We now are slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:16-18, 22) We have been set free to obey! (John 8:31-32; Romans 8:7-8) Either one is a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness!
- Because we died to sin (old man) sin no longer has dominion over us!
- (vv. 8-13) We are dead to sin **but alive to God**.

Immersed into Christ (Romans 6:1-8)

- Everywhere in the NT that we find the word βάπτισμα or βαπτίζω does not necessarily mean the Christian rite of baptism.
- EXAMPLE: (1 Corinthians 10:1-2) – “. . . all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were **baptized into** Moses and in the sea . . .”
- Here a Greek scholar helps us to understand. βαπτίζω, here is “the introduction or placing of a person or thing into a new environment or into union with something else so as to alter its condition or its relationship to its previous environment or condition.” (Wuest)
- In 1 Corinthians 10:2, the Israelites’ identity with Moses (under his authority as God’s spokesman) identified them with God.
- Here in Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27, Paul uses βαπτίζω as being **immersed** into Christ – as God’s representative. The idea is one of intimate **union** with Christ.
 - ★ These are spiritual immersions accomplished by the supernatural work of God through His Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13;)
 - ★ Water “**immersion**” symbolized for saints their identity with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection – intimate union.

ONE Baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

- One can make the solid argument that this ONE BAPTISM here is referencing BOTH definition of baptism. The spiritual baptism uniting us with Christ and the baptism of disciples that demonstrate this union publicly.

Result of Immersion into Christ (Romans 6:1-13)

- Remember our definition.
- ALL Christians **were** baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit.
- This baptism unites us with Christ. Therefore, Paul, shows that we were in Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Death is permanent; burial is proof of death; resurrection is the conquering of death.
- The result of us rising with Christ is that we now walk in a **newness** of life.
 - Sin characterized the OLD life; righteousness now the NEW life.
 - When we are born-again we are made **new** creatures (2 Cor 5:17); with a **new** heart (Ezek 36:26); with a **new** Spirit (Ezek 36:27); we have a **new** song (Psalm 40:3); a **new** family (John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1-2; Matt 12:48-50); a **new** name (Revelation 2:17) We become a **new** man. (Ephesians 4:24)

