

This morning I want to talk about Jesus as our Lord again. We've discussed the fact that people always talk about being saved but you hardly ever hear about Jesus being my Lord. The one I look to as my example of how to live in all circumstances.

- Why is that?
  - We like the idea of being rescued from something terrible but please don't tell me how to live!
  - Jesus as my Lord is nice to say but really hard to live out.

We've discussed many different aspects of Christ Lordship over our lives and this morning I have another one.

"Jesus is Lord over my relationships."

That means that if you claim Jesus as your Lord he has the right to tell you how to act in your relationships, not just to give you good examples to follow if you want to do it.

**Pray**

So, let me ask you this: Are the following stories an example of a Christ centered relationship?

*A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So, his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father*

*replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."*

Or this one where the wife wants positive reinforcement from her husband that she is valuable to him?

*Wife: "How would you describe me?"*

*Husband: "ABCDEFGHIIJK."*

*Wife: "What does that mean?"*

*Husband: "Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous, and hot."*

*Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about IJK?"*

*Husband: "I'm just kidding!"*

Or this one where the quality of the relationship has descended to a low point.

*Q: Is Google male or female?*

*A: Female, because it doesn't let you finish a sentence before making a suggestion.*

If relationships are not given attention and worked at by both sides all kinds of trouble can develop.

For example, when your husband, wife, or anyone tells you something more than once, you need to listen. It's important to that person, and if you care about them it becomes important to you, too.

It's the same way with God.

If we claim Jesus is our Lord then as we read the Bible and learn more about who Jesus is, we begin to see how important relationships are to Him, all relationships.

Jesus showed us the importance of relationships in what He said and the way He lived His life.

Friends this is important. Jesus never shied away from a difficult relationship or a misunderstanding in a relationship. If we claim Jesus as Lord of our life then we need to follow his example.

### **Eight Things Jesus Showed Us About Relationships**

#### **1. Jesus helps us see what's right when we're with people.**

When we gather with other Christians, the decisions God wants us to make become even more apparent (Matthew 18:20 ❶ & Acts 13:1-3 ❷).

- *We see God's movement and direction most clearly through our relationships with others.*

God operates best when we are working and praying together, and Satan works best when we are alone.

#### **2. Jesus said love is non-negotiable.**

The most important commandment Jesus gave us is to love God and love others (*Matthew 22:34-40* ❸). Healthy relationships are so important that God didn't just suggest we treat others well;

- He commanded it.

#### **3. Jesus is our role model for how to love people.**

Jesus did everything He could to help His friends and followers know God. We do the same thing when we're willing to do whatever it takes to help friends and family members take their next steps in their walks with Jesus (*John 15:12-15* ❹).

- This usually takes the form of loving other sacrificially and praying with them.

#### **4. Jesus told His friends not to do life alone.**

He sent His followers out in pairs to share the good news of God's peace (*Luke 10:1-2* ❺). Rather than sending them alone, Jesus wanted everyone to have someone to travel and do work with.

- When God asks us to take the next step, He often uses other Christians to help us along the way.

Jesus loved us so much that he sacrificed his very life for us.

#### **5. Jesus redefined family.**

Family is more than just biological parents, siblings and blood relatives. Family includes other Christians, too (*Mark 3:31-35* ❻).

#### **6. Jesus put others' needs before His wants.**

After hearing of the death of his cousin John the Baptist, Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to spend time alone. Crowds followed Him to the remote place. Rather than being angry and sending them away, Jesus had compassion on them and performed a miracle to feed them (*Matthew 14:13-21* ❼).

#### **7. Jesus shared meals with people.**

In Jesus's culture, sharing a meal with someone meant you were no longer strangers, but close friends. Jesus extended His friendship and kindness to people far from God, to the religious leaders who thought they had God figured out, and to everyone in between (*Mark 2:15-17* ❽, *Luke 7:36* ).

## 8. Jesus emphasized individuals over tasks.

Jesus wants His followers to care for hurting and troubled people (*John 21:15-17* ☺). Rather than seeing people as projects to improve, He wants us to love the way He loved and serve the way He served — personally and unconditionally.

If Jesus is Lord of your life relationships need to be part of your life and a priority. Relationships that are strained need to be addressed and healed. Misunderstanding need to be cleared up all so that the example of Love that Christ showed can flourish.

- If we refuse, then we are doing the work of Satan by harboring hurt and pain against another person.

For us as believers in Christ the first place Satan will attack is with our spouse or our family. And quickly after that is his work to develop hurt and misunderstanding in the church.

- Folks we need to fight this and live by the command of God if we claim Christ as Lord in our life.

Don't be the person who says: Lord, Lord and Jesus responds that he never knew you.

- Rather be the person that that confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord all the while allowing this belief to affect their actions.

We are meant to be in Christ like relationships and this is the first place Satan will attack.

This morning we are going to have a wedding vow renewal ceremony as an example and recommitment of their love for Christ and each other.