

## Colossians 1:15–20, Philippians 2:5–11, Revelation 19:11–16, and Living Under the Lordship of Jesus

### Prayer

### Introductory Questions

- What does it mean that “Jesus is Lord”?
- What are the biggest obstacles to submitting yourself to him?

### Introduction

Jesus is Lord! This means that Jesus shares the nature, authority, and functions of the LORD (Yahweh), who is God the Father (Ex. 3:14–15). “Jesus is Lord” is one of the most multifaceted and profound truths in the Bible:

1. **Jesus is Lord—the eternal God:** “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God [the Father], and the Word was God [in his essence or being]” (John 1:1).
2. **Jesus is Lord—the creator and sustainer of the universe:** “2 ...God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, *sustaining* [or *carrying along* to the appointed purpose of God] all things by his powerful word...” (Heb. 1:2–3).
3. **Jesus is Lord—who was born as the King and Messiah/Christ from God:** “11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11).
4. **Jesus is Lord—the one who died for his people’s sins:** “8 None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8).
5. **Jesus is Lord—the resurrected and reigning ruler over all things:** “20 He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And “he subjected everything under his feet” and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way” (Eph. 1:20–23).
6. **Jesus is Lord—the warrior from God, who will defeat God’s enemies:** “8...he [Jesus] takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don’t know God and on those who don’t obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from [or away from] the Lord’s presence and from his glorious strength” (2 Thess. 1:8–9).

In this lesson, we explore many of these aspects of the lordship of Jesus by focusing on three passages of Scripture: Colossians 1:15–20, Philippians 2:5–11, and Revelation 19:11–16. We conclude this lesson by summarizing how to live under his lordship.

## 1. Jesus the Lord—the Creator, Sustainer, Head of the Church, and Reconciler

- “15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.” (Col. 1:15–16)
- “17 He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. 18 He is also the head of the body, the church.” (Col. 1:17–18a)
- “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Col. 1:18b–20)

Jesus is the perfect image and representation of God the Father (v. 15; cf. Heb. 1:3). He is described as the “firstborn,” which does not mean that Jesus is a created being; instead, it means that he is *the preeminent one* over all creation (v. 15; cf. Ps. 89:27). He is preeminent over every part of the created order, for he is both the one *through whom* God created everything and the one *for whom* all things exist (v. 16; cf. Heb. 1:2). Jesus is before all things: he is preexistent/eternal (v. 17; cf. John 1:1). He sustains the universe and carries it along to its appointed end (v. 17; cf. Heb. 1:3). And he is the head (the supreme authority) of the body, the church (v. 18; cf. Eph. 1:22). Jesus is the beginning (or founder) of a new era where God bodily resurrects his people, and he is the firstborn (the preeminent one) over those who have been raised from the dead (v. 18; cf. 1 Cor. 15:20) (Moo, *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*, 129). Through Jesus, God has blazed a trail for our future resurrection. The result is that he has “first place in everything” (v. 18). God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus; he is fully God in his essence (v. 19; cf. Col. 2:9). Jesus reconciles the universe (“everything”) to himself through his death on the cross (v. 20). This does not mean that all will be saved, but Jesus will *pacify* the universe: he will bring it under his lordship (Eph. 1:10).

- What here makes Jesus worthy of your worship and humble submission?
- What comments or questions do you have about these verses?

## 2. Jesus the Lord—the God-Man and Exalted Lord Over All

5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. 9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on

earth and under the earth—11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:5–11)

Our call to humble ourselves before one another is grounded in the person, attitude, and actions of Jesus Christ (vv. 5–8). Although Jesus shares the same essence and qualities of God the Father, Jesus did not cling to that equality (v. 6). Instead, he set aside his kingly rights by becoming a human being (v. 7). He further humbled himself through his obedience to God, even to his death on a cross (v. 8). Precisely because Jesus humbled himself in these ways, God exalted him and gave him the name above all names: Lord (v. 9). All people will bow before Jesus and confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (vv. 10–11).

- What here makes Jesus worthy of your worship and humble submission?
- What comments or questions do you have about these verses?

### 3. Jesus the Lord—the Coming Warrior-King

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. 13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. 14 The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. 15 A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. 16 And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11–16)

After gazing into heaven, John first described Jesus (vv. 11–13) and then explained his actions (vv. 14–16) (Osborne, *Revelation*, 678–686). He rides a warhorse, is called “Faithful and True,” and judges and makes war with justice (v. 11). His eyes see with burning, perfect insight, he wears crowns that represent his supreme authority, and yet he cannot be known fully (v. 12). His robe is dipped in the blood of his enemies, and he bears the name “The Word of God” (v. 13; cf. Is. 63:3; John 1:1). The holy armies of heaven follow him into war (v. 14). He will strike down, rule over, and trample the nations on God’s behalf (v. 15). He is the King above all kings and the Lord above all lords—which is why he will return to make war (v. 16).

- What here makes Jesus worthy of your worship and humble submission?
- What comments or questions do you have about these verses?

## Sound Doctrine: Living Under the Lordship of Christ

The following truths help us to see Jesus as he is and submit to him as he deserves.

1. **Jesus is Lord over all people and things, regardless of how we respond to him:** “36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). God, Lord, and Christ—that is who Jesus is, whether we choose to receive him as our Lord by faith or reject him.
2. **We must admit our sinful, stubborn commitment to rule our own lives.** Some people are consciously aware of their decision to reject Jesus: “4...they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord” (Jude 4). Other people deceive themselves by thinking they are in a right relationship to Jesus. He said, “21 Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Jesus knows all things—including the state of our hearts toward him—and he is not fooled.
3. **We enter a relationship with God by turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus—which is calling on Jesus’s name for salvation:** “13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord [Jesus] will be saved”” (Rom. 10:13; cf. Joel 2:32).
4. **We obey Jesus in our thoughts, words, and deeds with the strength he provides:**
  - a. **by studying and teaching his commands as recorded in Scripture:** “19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 *teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.* And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20).
  - b. **by gathering in community:** “24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 *not neglecting to gather together...*” (Heb. 10:24–25).
  - c. **by pursuing his mission:** “8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
  - d. **by conforming our character to Jesus:** “9...you have put off the old man [Adam] with its practices 10 and have put on the new man [Jesus]. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator” (Col. 3:9–10).
  - e. **by conducting ourselves according to God’s will:** “15 ...I have written so that you will know *how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household*, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).
  - f. **by worshipping Jesus as our primary motivation.** “17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus*, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col. 3:17).

- What comments and questions do you have about this lesson?
- What is one thing you can do in response to this lesson?

## Prayer