

Lordship & Obedience

*“God’s plans for you will always be greater and more beautiful than all of your disappointments”
~ Anonymous*

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let [your bodies] be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” ~ Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

Why is it so easy for us to not like being told what to do?

Think about it!

When dad says, “Go clean your room now, it’s a mess!” Something inside rises up with a bad attitude, super unhappy that he just invaded your world, called you out, and reprimanded you! Now, you may do what he says, but in your heart, you are still carrying an attitude!

Or if mom says, “I need you to help me clean the kitchen and take out the trash!” Why does everything inside of you want to just be angry that you have to stop what you are already doing (even if it was nothing) in order to help her?

WE LIKE OUR FREEDOM

When mom or dad step into our space, it takes over our sense of freedom. However, if we had CHOSEN to clean our room or CHOSEN to take out the trash, no one would have ever invaded our space. No one would have “usurped” our rights. But once they ask us, we feel stifled & controlled, or even worse, we feel they just don’t care about us!

What does this have to do with Lordship?

Paul tells us in Romans 10:9-10 that our confession of faith is to declare Jesus as **Lord** over our lives! This means that we are saying that He has the right to rule over us. Too often when we think of God ruling over us, it sounds scary. We feel we are losing our freedom because we are bound to someone. Just like how we feel when our parents rule over us and tell us what to do! Lordship can seem scary if we feel like our freedom is gone. But it is even more scary when we think that God, who is to rule over us, has no care for who we are.

Now, change the scenario...

You are flying over the city of Detroit in a helicopter when you hit turbulence. The aircraft jostles, you’re jerked from your seat, and you begin sliding across the floor to the open door... When the co-pilot says, “**Grab my hand!**” ...there is no attitude. No feeling of being controlled. You *instantly* respond and with all your strength and ability. You swing your arm toward him with your hand fully extended to get a firm grip!! *You don’t want to fall!*

Why the change?

Have you seen this type of contrast in yourself (perhaps in different scenarios?) Why do you think being “obedient” is *easier* sometimes and *harder* other times?

FOR OUR GOOD

When we don't feel the person telling us what to do is actually helping us, we don't feel free, we feel controlled. However, when we are confident that the person who is giving us instruction is doing it for **our good** we would be silly to not respond! When we know they are trying to save us, we don't feel our freedom is gone, instead, we find ourselves grateful for their help! We can see that they are helping us get to a good place. This is God in our lives! He is working all things out for our good (Romans 8:28). His commands are not to burden us, but to help us look like Jesus (our aim!).

God LOVES YOU!

So, when you call Jesus, “Lord,” be convinced that he is also good. Be confident that God has your best interest in mind. We can be confident that if he has something for us to do, or if he gives us a command, it is because he is doing it for our good. He is the one who made you and knows you better than you know yourself! And he knows where he needs you to be to walk out his Kingdom here on this earth.

Read Romans 12:1-2 again (it's written at the beginning)

- *Take a moment and see what parts of this verse show you how God leads you in his role as **Lord**.*
- *Also, look again at what this verse shows you about what **YOU** are needing to do in order to respond to His lead (**obey**)?*

Questions to Ponder:

- What are some ways you show others that Jesus is Lord over your life?
- What are some directions that he has communicated with you that make you realized he loves you and has your best interest in mind?
- What are some commands he has spoken that have been hard for you to obey?
 - Why do you think you are struggling here? What is going on in you?
 - Why do you think God gave those commands? How are they good? Pleasing? Perfect?
 - How will you allow Him to be LORD in these areas starting today?

Let's take some time to invite God to show us his heart for us in what he is speaking. If you have been disobeying (or just not moving forward) on what God has communicated with you, then take time to repent and ask him for forgiveness. After this, invite him to change the posture of your heart towards him and to transform the way you think so that you can walk out his good, pleasing and perfect plan!