

6-28-20

Sermon- Who Is Our Boss?

Scripture- Romans 14:7-12, CTW Psalm 13

Hymns- 302, 455

Theme- An important message of the Bible is that "Jesus Christ is Lord." The fact that He is Lord demands that we submit ourselves to Him. All of history is moving towards the moment when all of God's creation will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord. No matter our background or social standing, our riches or our poverty; as Christians, Jesus is our Lord.

"Who's the Boss?" was a TV show that ran in the 80's. A widower and former pro baseball player down on his luck, takes a job as a housekeeper for a high powered divorced executive, and her son. He and his daughter move into the executive's home and the rest of the show is all about a constant struggle to determine who the Boss is.

My father always told me that in every house there needs to be an ultimate Boss...the person in charge who makes the decisions and leads the family. The Bible says that in every Christian home, that authority is to be Christ.

That brings up our question for the day: who's the boss in your life? Who is the ultimate authority? Who do you turn to for guidance?

Last week we ended the worship with the idea that we were going to come back this week and talk about what being a missional church and going out into the neighborhood as missionaries would look like...but how can we do that if we have not first determined the authority we will be taking direction from?

As Christians, we must submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. But why? What can we expect the relationship to be like?

I. Why? Because Scripture is Clear As to Who We are to Live For.

These points come from **Romans 14:7-12**

“For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. But you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, **As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.** So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

When Jesus Christ is referred to in scripture, phrases like “Lord and Master”, “Alpha and Omega”, “Almighty One, Ultimate Authority”, often are used. Last week we talked about the Great Commission in Matthew 28 where Jesus declared that all authority in Heaven and on earth had been given to Him.

In verses 7, 8 we are confronted with the fact that Christ is the Lord whether we live or whether we die. “For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself.” The point is that we are to submit to the Lord as our highest authority in everything.

Instead, Christians in the world get so used to answering to other authorities in their lives...(just fill in the blanks here, folks...the many levels of government that we have recently been exposed to, come to my mind. For instance, before this Pandemic, I had no idea how many...can you say CDC?

For a Christian, the idea of Lordship is the **fact** that Jesus, **on the basis of who He is and what He has done**, is to have power and authority over every area of our lives.

A. First, He is the Lord of life- vs. 8- If we live, we are to live for the Lord, the “giver of life”.

One of the greatest problems in Christianity today is irresponsible living. Some misguided people say: As long as I’m saved... (believe, repent, confess and baptized), I can live anyway I want to. I am forgiven of my sins and therefore I a **free** person.

However, upon reading the “Owner’s Manual” (the Bible), we find that only by having Jesus Christ as our **daily director of life** can

we ever find real freedom! As flawed humans, we need His direction.

Let me address this with some other words of Paul in **Romans Chapter 6**: "What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who **died** to sin still **live** in it?"

Paul says this in Galatians 2:20- "I have been crucified with Christ, and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

A. W. Tozer says that people who are crucified with Christ have three distinct marks: 1) They are to be facing in only one direction. 2) They can never turn back. 3) They no longer have plans of their own.

B. The next principle is that, He is the Lord of death verse 8 says that "If we die, we die for the Lord."

Death is not the end, but only a change of life, going to a different life, different existence. When a Christian dies he passes from this life into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ for eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:8 says, "In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." Remember also **Philippians 1:21**- "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." How can that be gain? Because for the Christian we will be eternally present with the Lord, reunited with our loved ones in heaven.

How do we die for the Lord? Beyond a martyrs death what does this mean? Simply we die as believers in the service of the Lord and His kingdom...Remember the Great Commission? We are to die in pursuit of that.

II. How Did Christ Become the Boss? Because He has earned it!

Romans 14:9- Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living.

Colossians 1:16 says that Jesus Christ created everything, “all things have been created **through** him and **for** him.” Notice that it not only says “through Him”, but that it also says “FOR Him.”

A. We were created to give all glory to God.

However, we have all failed. **Romans 3:23**- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. What are we going to do? We can do nothing, but God provides a way through his son Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:26 says, “God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, **so that he would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.**”

B. We are only saved through Jesus Christ, there is no other way. 1 Corinthians 6:20: You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. **So glorify God with your body.**

We were bought with the precious blood of Christ. He earned it and purchased us with his blood.

“He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and he is Lord, every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

III. He is the Boss Because of the Freedom Which His Lordship brings.

A. The context of these verses in Romans 14 is that Paul is trying to bring together 2 factions in the church. One group said it was okay to eat meat even if that meat might be sacrificed to idols, another group said that it was sin to eat any meat because it might have been sacrificed to an idol.

There was division between the 2 groups.

Paul is saying that there is no hard and fast rule on this issue so there is **freedom in Christ for His people to decide.** Paul focuses the minds of the Roman Christians on the Lordship of the risen Christ, because to despise or judge other Christians is to lose sight of who Christ is.

This is why he says in vs. 10- "But you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister?"

Christians who truly belong to Jesus, are to **adapt every aspect of their existence to Christ**. Their heart felt desire is to get a thumbs up from their Lord. In this respect, we all need to honor the Lord and his desires for all of mankind.

With this in mind, what should our mission as a church look like in this community where He calls us to serve?

B. Our conduct and lifestyle is lived by faith and should be offered to God in thankfulness.

Romans 14:4- "Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand."

We will stand if we are striving to please our Boss. **Are we striving to please our Boss, or ourselves?**

We may have been freed from the judgment of others but we are not ever freed from the judgment of our Maker!

Notice vs. 12- "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." In this verse Paul confronts us with the startling truth that every Christian will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account or explanation for why we did what we did in this life given by Him for a purpose.

2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

What is described here is not a judgment for sin, for our sins have been dealt with at the cross. **Romans 8:1** says, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus".

This is where Christians will be evaluated and rewards will be either gained or lost.

IV. Conclusion: I want to have Christ say to me on the great day, Well done good and faithful servant. How about you?

Achieving that as individuals and a church should be our daily goal!

We all must ask ourselves am I in Christ Jesus? Is He the Boss of my life? Believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and then go out and live it!

I will end with this story: An atheist farmer often ridiculed people in his community who believed in God, and followed God's way for their lives, in a faithful manner.

He wrote the following letter to the editor of a local newspaper: "I plowed on Sunday, planted on Sunday, cultivated on Sunday, and hauled my crops on Sunday; and I never went to any church on Sunday.

Yet, I harvested more bushels per acre than anyone else, even those who are God fearing and never missed a church service."

The editor printed the man's letter and then added this remark: "God doesn't just settle his accounts in the Fall, like a farmer does. Nor does He just look at His followers from a Sunday point of view. He is the Lord of our lives **every day**, and as such He calls us into account **every day**."

That editor was so right. We each need to ponder these truths for our own lives before we refresh our efforts to "Now therefore go and do likewise" in this Community! Amen? Let Us Pray...