

Lordship Means Discipline

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I. Introduction.

- A. Lordship means recognizing Jesus' absolute authority in our lives. (Luke 6:46)
- B. Discipline means training that corrects, molds or perfects. The purpose of discipline is to produce better quality of mind or character. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- C. Discipline intersects lordship as we seek to put Jesus' authority in our lives into practice on a daily basis.

II. Discipline is necessary to lordship because by nature we do not submit to Christ's authority.

- A. Our sinful, uncultivated nature desires what is contrary to the spirit. (Galatians 5:17)
- B. Our sacrifice of our lives to God includes the idea of us being consumed on the altar of God. (Romans 12:1)
 - 1. This means we hand over the rights to our lives and destinies to God.
 - 2. Lordship means that we cease to tell God what we are going to do and ask Him what He wants us to do.

III. Our whole environment acts against us making Christ Lord of our lives. (Romans 12:2)

- A. The world around us does not acknowledge the lordship of Christ and we can easily be squeezed into its mold.
 - 1. The world says promote yourself, pamper yourself, pity yourself. There is alliance between our selfish nature and the world to keep us from making Jesus Lord of our lives.
- B. We are to be continually being transformed to Christ's likeness. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

IV. We must discipline ourselves in godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7; Ephesians 4:22-24)

- A. One type of discipline is negative.
 - 1. We are to put off our old self. We are to deny ourselves self-promotion, self-pampering, and self-pity. (Luke 9:23)
 - 2. Jesus Christ must be Lord of our ambitions, possessions, time, etc. These things must be put on the altar of God to allow them to die and then produce His fruit. (John 12:24)
- B. One type of discipline is positive.
 - 1. We are to put on our new selves which are created to be like God.

2. Our attitude of mind must be renewed by spending time with God- personally and corporately.

a) We must change our values by acquiring God's values through His Word.

b) It takes discipline to study God's Word and pray.

C. One type of discipline is passive. (Hebrews 12:5-13)

1. We tend to wilt under God's discipline through the hardships of life. We must welcome God's discipline and submit to it.

V. Discipline without desire is drudgery.

A. God's mercy produces a desire to make Christ Lord. (Romans 12:1)

B. Christ's love compels us to live for Him. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Matthew 25:21)

Application questions:

1. How can the attitudes of our minds be transformed?

2. How does God's love and mercy motivate us to accept His discipline and pursue discipline in our lives?

3. Why is accepting Jesus as Lord of our lives difficult?
