

## The Way of the Lord

### 36. Theological Hindrances to The LORDship of Jesus (Part 1)

In the past few segments we illustrated the hindrances in your brain that may keep you from living with Jesus as LORD of your life. Beginning with this segment we'll talk about *theological* hindrances holding you back from walking in the LORDSHIP of Jesus. For example, perhaps you've been assured by a religious leader that you were "*saved*" the day you went forward to "ask Jesus into your heart." But thinking of Jesus *only* as a "Savior" minimizes His life-changing role as "LORD Jesus."

LORD isn't just a title—it's *Who Jesus is!* An incomplete "gospel" that leaves out His role as RULER of your life minimizes this essential biblical truth. And without His LORDship, you're missing His guidance and power. Many false gospels teach that salvation *equals* justification. They state that you're forever saved the moment you "accept Jesus as your Savior", no matter *how* you live the rest of your life. But as Scripture makes very clear, authentic salvation equals *both* justification AND sanctification. Paul assures those in Thessalonica who live for Jesus as their LORD, "*God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through SANCTIFICATION by the Spirit AND faith in the truth*" (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

JUSTIFICATION comes through ongoing trust in the shed blood of Jesus to pay for your sins and reconcile you to God (Romans 5:8-10). Out of love, *God* gives you the grace to trust the atonement of Jesus on your behalf (Ephesians 2:4-8).

SANCTIFICATION is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus through the work of His indwelling Spirit. He *sets you apart as holy* to *do the will* of your heavenly Father (1 Peter 1:15,16). It's in sanctification that the LORDship of Jesus is made *authentic* in your life. It's an *ongoing transformation* of your character into *His* (1 Corinthians 1:2). This is why Paul could say, "*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are BEING TRANSFORMED into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit*" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

All throughout the lifelong process of your sanctification you need *God's grace*. Grace is the desire and the power to *become more like Christ*, and to *do our Father's will* (Philippians 2:13). Your sanctification is so important in your life journey that Paul prays for our Father to work this in you: "*Now may the God of peace Himself SANCTIFY YOU ENTIRELY; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ*" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

You may be wondering *why* any religious leader would *dismiss* sanctification as a key element for your salvation. Let's look at two reasons, both connected to them wanting to *exercise control* in someone else's life. First, through sanctification, Jesus as your LORD rules your mind, will and emotions. As you become sanctified in the LORDship of Jesus, religious leaders can't dominate you. And that alarms many of them. Perhaps you doubt that. But when we told one church leader what our Father had revealed to us in Israel about the Lordship of Jesus, he spouted, "We can't have our people trusting Jesus as LORD. That would cause *mayhem!* We need to *control and direct* the spiritual activities of the people in our congregation."

The clergy system which dominates so much of Christendom is a *manmade contrivance of control*. The clergy system elevates *one individual* to a role of dominance. This

man-dominated system of control is called *Nicolaitanism*, and is something God hates and is warring against (Revelations 2:6,15). Even the word *Nicolaitan* means “to conquer the people.” Be aware that you can’t submit to the rule of Jesus as LORD of your life and submit to the Nicolaitan clergy-system at the same time. The *rule of Jesus* and the *control of clergy* are incompatible.

There is no more “Levitical priesthood” of a select clergy class! Jesus replaced this when He became the only High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:20,7:17). The Levitical system is the *old wineskin*, as Jesus warns: “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour NEW wine into OLD wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour NEW wine into NEW wineskins, and both are preserved” (Matthew 9:16,17). According to Jesus, if He’s to be LORD of your life, you can’t attach a faith in Him to the OLD wineskin of religious intermediaries.

Jesus has called out of both the world and the old religious system a priesthood of *all* believers (1 Peter 2:5). *No one* is more elevated than another as each one does their part in the collective body. We contend that *false* gospels have been created and maintained by clergy systems over the centuries. Man’s sinful desire to be *in control* goes all the way back to Eden, and *control* is efficiently exercised by the system.

Today’s clergy system lords their power and position over the flock. They control them by manmade denominational creeds, and seduce them into believing that tolerating personal sin is *irrelevant* to their spiritual life. Consequently, becoming more like Jesus through sanctification by His Spirit has no significance. Clergy deceive people by appealing to their passive aggression. They *minimize or even eliminate* the importance of Jesus as LORD of *all* aspects of their lives. That way people can go through life thinking that Jesus is their SAVIOR, and that’s enough. But they don’t want any part of becoming new wineskins with Lord Jesus *ruling their lives*.

Tragically, much of western Christianity has gone from being a *collective, living organism* to becoming this: a *religious institution* having no more Spirit-power than any other man-made religions of the earth. Today’s man-centered, SELF-idolizing gospels teach you to expect Jesus to be *your* servant, to make you prosperous and happy. But when did you last hear the biblical truth that we are here to do *HIS will* and extend *HIS Kingdom* on earth?

We have much more to say in our next segment about the theological prison in which many are held captive. And we have much more to encourage you with about the LORDship of Jesus and the spiritual power He gives to those who *love Him* as their Lord.

### **For Further Study**

- Hebraic Article: *The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*
- Book: *Pastoring By Elders*
- Hebraic Article: *I Hate Nicolaitanism*
- Hebraic Article: *God’s Clergy-less Kingdom*

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