

Working Out What God Works In

Philippians 2:12-18

Main Idea: *Because Jesus Christ is Lord, we are called to press forward in obedience: depending upon God's Grace and living for His Glory.*

Introduction:

- What does a church look like when its people actually live together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Three Essentials For Living Under The Lordship Of Christ

1. We must pursue obedience to Christ - **v. 12**
 - Continue in faithful obedience
 - Work out the salvation we've received
 - **Ephesians 2:8–10**
 - Walk in reverent fear before God
 - **2 Corinthians 7:1**
2. We must depend upon the Grace of God - **v. 13**
 - God Himself is working within us
 - God produces both our desires and our actions
 - God is accomplishing His good pleasure
 - **Romans 8:29**
3. We must shine for the Glory of Christ - **vv. 14–18**
 - Pursue unity without grumbling - **vv. 14–15**
 - Hold fast to the Word of Life - **vv. 15–16**
 - **John 8:12; John 17:17**
 - Rejoice in sacrificial service - **vv. 17–18**

So, What?

- Since God is graciously at work within us, are we reflecting the Lordship of Christ through our obedience, unity, and witness?

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Now What? (Small Group Questions)

How does understanding that holiness is the fruit of salvation, rather than the means of earning it, change the way we pursue obedience to Christ? **Read Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–14**

- What does **Ephesians 2:8–10** teach us about the relationship between God's grace, our salvation, and our good works?
- According to **Titus 2:11–12**, what does God's grace train us to do? How does that challenge the idea that grace gives us permission to remain in sin?
- When we struggle with sin, are we more inclined to repent and rest in Christ's finished work, or attempt to earn back God's favor through better behavior?
 - Consider: Am I pursuing holiness because I have received God's grace, or am I trying to earn something Christ has already secured?

If God is the One changing our hearts and enabling our obedience, how should that shape the way we approach spiritual growth? **Read Ezekiel 36:25–27; Philippians 2:12–13**

- Notice how often God says, “**I will,**” in **Ezekiel 36**. What does that reveal about who initiates and accomplishes our spiritual transformation?
- Why is it important that God changes not only our outward actions but also the desires of our hearts?
- How does **Philippians 2:12–13** guard us against both self-reliance and spiritual passivity?
 - Consider: Where am I relying upon my own strength, or neglecting the means of grace God has provided, rather than depending upon His Spirit?

What would become noticeably different about Walnut Grove if God's sanctifying grace increasingly shaped the way we treated one another? **Read Ephesians 4:1–6, 25–32; Philippians 2:14–16**

- According to **Ephesians 4:1–6**, what is the foundation of our unity? Why does Paul tell us to maintain that unity rather than create it?
- How do our words, attitudes, and responses to disagreements reveal whether we're walking in humility or selfish ambition?
 - Consider: If everyone responded to disagreements, correction, and unmet preferences the way I do, what kind of church would Walnut Grove be?