

COMMISSIONED

THE ART OF LIVING OUT THE WORDS, WAYS, & MISSION OF JESUS

4.1 Submission to Lordship

Way of Formation

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Hello I'm Marion Mason-

Throughout the Scriptures we find many different topics and themes. One of the topics that Jesus discussed just about more than anything else was the Kingdom of God. Jesus mentions the Kingdom over 100 times. He places a great deal of emphasis on **our** place and value in the kingdom. The Kingdom of God is in reference to the rule of Jesus Christ on earth and in heaven, and those that are a part of the kingdom. Those that follow Christ are a part of the Kingdom. Based on our backgrounds or experiences with democracy, the idea of kingdom may feel like a foreign concept. We are accustomed to voting and participating in the democratic process. The reality is that if we are a follower of Jesus we are a part of his kingdom with Jesus as the King and therefore we do have an important role. Being a follower of Jesus is much more than simply recognizing his goodness and power. Being a follower means that we submit to his rule and reign in our lives. And because of His love for us we are compelled to share who He is and what He has done with the world around us.

That is Jesus is fully God and also fully man. And because of the life that He lived, His death, burial, and resurrection He drew each one of us to himself. And because Jesus conquered death He is able to offer each one of us forgiveness for our sins. Scripture proclaims, in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus is God and thus King of the Kingdom.

So when about submitting to his lordship That means we bend our wills, our preferences, and our opinions to him. *The beautiful thing is that Jesus loves each one of us intently and desires the best for us. Unfortunately, most of us proclaim to follow Jesus but it's more like we are asking him to follow us.* That is... we might be doing good things, they just may not line up completely with what Jesus desires for us. That's where the concept of Kingdom of God comes in and even more the Lordship of Jesus. Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus begins with the posture of our heart and aligning our actions with the heart of Jesus. Jesus instructs us to Love the Lord our

God with all of our Heart, Mind, Soul, and Strength and to Love our Neighbors as Ourselves.
The Words/Ways/& Mission of Jesus

In other words we are to put the things of God and others before ourselves. Whew if that sounds a bit challenging it can be. That's why I'm thankful that we are not asked to do this out of our own strength rather when we submit to the Lordship of Jesus He fills us with His Spirit that empowers us to operate with Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self- Control. Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus continues as we walk in a healthy fear of the Lord. Proverbs tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. Walking in the fear of the Lord means that we reverence God and reference God in all we say and do. Reverencing God—meaning we recognize, acknowledge, and respect who he is. He is the King. Referencing God—meaning we seek him, trust him, and obey him. He is our Compass.

One of the beautiful things about the Lordship of Christ is that we surrender to him because he is God. That is... he is Lord over all because he is God. Psalm 103:19 declares that God rules over all things by his providential control. Christ is Lord over all because in his human nature he has accomplished perfect obedience and conquered death through his resurrection and ascension. *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me [Christ]. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . . (Matt. 28:18)*

One of the things that Jesus proclaims in Matt.28 is that a component of making disciples is baptizing them. We both revere and reference God, through following Jesus' command and the example of Baptism. Towards the beginning of the New Testament Jesus is baptized and he is then dunked in the water and brought back up. With this small gesture he not only pleased God the father but sets an example for each one of us.

Baptism is an outward sign of an internal allegiance. Baptism is a declaration. An outward sign of the inward commitment you have made to follow Jesus. It's like wearing a wedding band. Wearing a wedding band doesn't make you married; not wearing a wedding band doesn't make you un-married. But the band is an outward symbol of the inward commitment you have made to a spouse. Baptism is an outward expression of our faith. Baptism also marks an affiliation and connection. For 2,000 years, baptism has been the rite of passage by which people have joined, Jesus' Body, the Church. The church is God's body. Is a group of called out people that follow after Jesus. That is the people that are followers of Jesus. Baptism is the way people tangibly and physically mark their commitment to Jesus and their connection to the church. Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. When you go under the water, it reminds us of Jesus' death and burial and symbolizes death to self. When you come out of the water, it reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and symbolizes the life we now have in him. It's a picture of Romans 10:9-10— read

9 If you declare(A) with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"(B) and believe(C) in your heart that God raised him from the dead,(D) you will be saved.(E) 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus is a daily act of obedience and surrendering our will to his. Baptism is an opportunity to mark a specific point in time, an altar moment in our lives to publicly proclaim our surrendering to Jesus. We have the opportunity to remember that it's not about what we've done for God; it's about what he's done for us. It also gives is the opportunity to walk in assurance and faith that he will complete the work he started in our lives.

However, our obedience does not earn our salvation or contribute to becoming a saved person. We are justified by God's grace as a gift ([Rom. 3:24](#)). It is all God's doing ([Eph. 2:8](#)). It is Christ's perfect obedience, not our obedience, that has obtained for us forgiveness of our sins and all the benefits of salvation. *Genuine obedience is the offering that we give in gratitude to God, because we have already been saved.*

We are to serve Christ all the time, in all of life, with all of our heart. This service doesn't hinge our power but our obedience to God allows the power of His Spirit to flow in and through us. Ultimately our surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ makes an impact in every area of life. Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God a great deal in the Scriptures. A big part of us embracing the Kingdom of God is recognizing that we are apart because of our alignment and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord. When we submit to the Lordship of Jesus it is reflected in our obedience to his commands. May God Bless You!