

The Lordship of Jesus

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Intro

Is Jesus Lord of your life or only your Savior?

The word "Lord" is used to refer to Jesus over **700x** in the NT

→ It's about making Jesus Savior and Lord

Key Verse

Luke 6:46 ESV

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?

A believer and a disciple is NOT the same

A **believer** is saved, justified, and has eternal life

A **disciple** is a follower, learner, and imitator of Jesus

John 8:31 NIV

to the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."

Notice the "if" of being a disciple; being a disciple depends on what WE do, whereas salvation is based only on what Jesus did for us

This passage shows a clear distinction between a believer and a disciple

The Jews who had believed, needed to go further to become His disciples by holding to His teaching

What is a disciple?

mathetes (math-ay-tes') #3101 - disciple, student, follower; a committed learner, in the NT usually of Jesus (Mounce)

- someone who follows and learns from a teacher
- one who follows one's teaching (John 8:31, Luke 6:40)
- "disciple" is most commonly associated with the teachings of Jesus in the NT

In Jewish culture discipleship was all about two things: following and learning from a teacher or rabbi.

A disciple was a student who studied the teachings of the rabbi and sought to become like him.

Discipleship was a central concept in the Jewish culture and religion

It was more than just learning doctrines or information

Discipleship was a way of life that required a deep commitment to the teacher and his teachings.

A disciple would (1) **follow** the rabbi wherever he went, (2) **listen carefully** to his **words**, and (3) **imitate** his **actions**.

Biblical Requirement for Salvation

Salvation is by **faith alone**

→ Biblically, the **ONLY** condition for salvation is **faith**

115x the NT says that when a person **believes** (*verb*) they are **saved**, have **eternal life**, and are **justified**

35x the NT says that by **faith** (*noun*) a person is **justified** or becomes **righteous** by faith

150x total the NT says that faith/believing is the only way to be saved, justified, and have eternal life

John says **86x** that salvation is only by believing

Acts 16:30-31 NASB

30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be **saved**?"

31 They said, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and **you will be saved**, you and your household."

John 3:16 NASB

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that **everyone who believes** in Him will not perish, but have **eternal life**.

John 6:47 NASB

Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who **believes** has **eternal life**.

Romans 10:9-10 NASB

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be **saved**; 10 for with the heart a person **believes**, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in **salvation**.

John 3:36 NASB

The one who **believes** in the Son has **eternal life**; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 5:24 NASB

Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and **believes** Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:27, 29 NLT

27 ...Spend your energy seeking the **eternal life** that the Son of Man can give you.

29 Jesus told them, "This is the **only work** God wants from you: **Believe** in the one he has sent."

Galatians 3:24, 26 NASB

24 Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be **justified by faith**.

26 For you are all **sons** and daughters of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:13 NASB

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your **salvation**—having also **believed**, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise

Salvation is **NOT** by works

Salvation is by grace alone – never works

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

For it is **by grace** you have been **saved**, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**not by works**, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5 NASB

He saved us, **not** on the basis of **deeds** which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

Romans 4:5 NASB

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

Romans 3:20, 27-28 NASB

20 because by the **works** of the Law **none** of mankind will be justified in His sight...

27 Where then is boasting? It has been excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith **apart from works** of the Law.

Galatians 2:16 NIV

know that a person is **not** justified by the **works** of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and **not by the works** of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Romans 11:6 NASB

But if it is by grace, it is **no longer** on the basis of works, since otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Philippians 3:9 NASB

and may be found in Him, **not** having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith

Faith without works?

But “*faith without works is dead*,” so aren’t works still required for salvation?

NO, works are **not required** for salvation; works simply demonstrate that your faith is genuine

Let’s see what James is actually saying in context:

James 2:17 ESV

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:24 ESV

You see that a person is justified by works and **not** by faith alone.

James 2:14, 19 ESV

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone **says** he has faith but does not have works? Can **that faith** save him?

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- James is distinguishing between two kinds of faith: genuine & alive faith vs dead or demon faith
 - Works demonstrate genuine faith
 - Works demonstrate the difference between those who simply **claim** they believe & a genuine believer
- James doesn't contradict that faith alone saves; he simply rejects the idea that a **particular kind of faith** "that faith" can save—a faith that doesn't produce works (2:14), the kind of faith demons have (2:19).
- James is focusing on the fruit or result of faith which is contrasted from just "claiming" you have faith (2:14-16) which is the faith of **demons** (aka **dead** or **inactive** or just **intellectual**)
- James is not against faith, he is against a certain kind of faith (demon faith) that doesn't justify
 - In vs 20 James calls the person who has this type of faith, "you foolish person," he is not referring to a genuine believer here

(See two articles for more on this)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/do-paul-james-disagree-on-justification-by-faith-alone/>

<https://carm.org/verses-examined-nt/are-we-justified-by-faith-romans-or-by-works-james/>

Differences Between Kingdom of God & Eternal Life

1. How you enter (Eternal Life – by faith; KOG – through works)
2. Our attitude toward each (Eternal Life – we have it; KOG – we must seek it)
3. How God treats each (Eternal Life – a free gift; KOG – a reward)
4. Different levels of rank (Eternal Life – same result; KOG – different ranks)

Biblical Requirements for Being a Disciple

A disciple is a follower, learner, & imitator

1. Follow Jesus (Luke 9:23, 14:27; Matt 10:38, 16:24)
2. Deny yourself and take up your cross (Luke 9:23, 14:27; Matt 10:38, 16:24)
3. Hate your family and your own life (Luke 14:26; Matt 10:37)
4. Give up all your possessions (Luke 14:33)
5. Love God and one another (John 13:35, 14:15, 21; Matt 22:37-40)
6. Obey Jesus' teachings (John 8:31)
7. Produce fruit (John 15:8)
8. Endure suffering and persecution (John 15:20; 1 Peter 2:21)

Luke 9:23 NASB

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Luke 14:26-33 NASB

26 If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My **disciple**.

27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My **disciple**.

33 So then, none of you can be My **disciple** who does not give up all his own possessions.

Matthew 10:37-38 NASB

The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 16:24 NASB

Then Jesus said to His **disciples**, ""If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

John 13:35 NASB

By this all men will know that you are My **disciples**, if you have love for one another.

John 8:31 NIV

to the Jews who had **believed** him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my **disciples**.

John 15:8 NASB

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Luke 9:57-62 NASB

59 And He said to another, "**Follow Me**."

61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home."

62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

John 15:20 NASB

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they **persecuted Me**, they will persecute you as well

1 Peter 2:21 NASB

For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also **suffered** for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps

Believer vs Disciple

Eternal Life

Free Gift

Received by faith

Not by works

Discipleship

Costly

Received by surrender & obedience

By works

Instant justification	Life-long sanctification
Jesus paid the price	The Christian pays the price
Believe in Jesus	Follow Jesus as Lord
Believe in Jesus	Obey His commands
Cannot be earned	Earns rewards

The Lordship of Jesus

Calling Jesus Lord is not enough

We must submit to Him as Lord

Luke 6:46 ESV

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?

Philippians 2:9-11 NASB

10 so that at the name of Jesus **every knee will bow** of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that **every tongue will confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord...

One day every person, believer and nonbeliever, at the full revelation of Jesus will acknowledge and confess that Jesus is Lord; this does not mean they will all be saved

At His full manifestation, all creation must bow at His tremendous glory and majesty

Saying Jesus is Lord is **not the same** as making Him Lord / submitting to His Lordship

Lordship is about surrender

Lordship is about submitting to Jesus not just believing in Him

2 Corinthians 5:15 NASB

and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.

2 Corinthians 4:5 NIV

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Lordship is the way into the Kingdom of God, not salvation

Lordship is more than salvation / eternal life

Lordship is about submission

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, '**Lord, Lord**,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

22 *Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'*

23 *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.'*

What is the Kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is the rule of God through Jesus Christ

Wherever Jesus is reigning, the kingdom is manifesting

It is a spiritual reality—wherever King Jesus rules and reigns

It is the rule of God in the hearts of believers

Wherever people are living in obedience to Jesus, the kingdom is there

Requirements to enter the Kingdom of God

- **Salvation** is settled by faith alone, but entrance into the **kingdom** has several other requirements

- Several things in Scripture are earned after salvation: the kingdom, crowns, glory, and rewards

- 32x Matthew mentions the kingdom of God, never once is faith ever mentioned in connection to entering into the kingdom of God

1. Born again, saved (John 3:3-5)
2. Do the will of God (Matthew 7:21-23)
3. Be a disciple, follower of Jesus (Luke 9:57-62)
4. Live righteous, free from sin (Mark 9:43-47; Matt 18:6-9, 5:20, 21:31-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 5:5; Gal 5:19-21)
5. Be like a child (Matt 18:3-4, 19:14; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17)
6. Enter the narrow way (Luke 13:23-30; Matthew 7:13-14, 21)
7. Go through hardships & persecution (Mark 10:24; Acts 14:22; Matt 5:10, 20:20-21; 2 Thess 1:5; John 15:20)
8. Produce fruit (Matthew 21:43)
9. Be poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3)
10. Love God and people (James 2:5; Matthew 25:34-39)
11. Not with our physical bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50)

Example: Doing the will of God

In the below passages it's clear Jesus is talking to those who are His disciples and believers in Him.

Notice the words "Lord, Lord" 2x and "In your name" 3x – there were not the unsaved, but the saved

Jesus is making a distinction between those who are saved and those who enter the kingdom of God

Jesus is warning those who are saved about the potential of not entering into His kingdom

There are many who have believed in Jesus and are saved by their faith, but must be warned about their lifestyle of disobedience or lawlessness

Matthew 5:1-2 NASB

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy **in Your name**, and **in Your name** cast out demons, and **in Your name** perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

A believer can be assured of their eternal life, but they may lose their place and glory in the kingdom of God

Paul concerned about being “disqualified”?

When Paul is concerned about being “disqualified” he is not concerned about losing his salvation, but about losing the crown and the glory for which he is running for

1 Corinthians 9:23-27 NASB

23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So they do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way as not to run aimlessly; I box in such a way, as to avoid hitting air; 27 but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Importance of Entering the Kingdom of God

Where and when is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is present reality on earth today

- Jesus' death and resurrection initiated the kingdom of God—the rule and reign of Jesus on earth
 - This is when Satan was defeated and Jesus took His rightful place as king
 - Jesus is currently seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning as king

The kingdom of God is present and growing in the earth; yet we are waiting for the future full manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth when Jesus returns to rule & reign on the earth in the millennial reign

- This is where Satan will be bound for a thousand years

1. Be part of the first resurrection—the honeymoon, marriage feast, millennial reign—at the return of Jesus

Those who received eternal life by faith, but didn't enter the kingdom (didn't make Jesus Lord), will **NOT** be part of the first resurrection, but will be part of the second resurrection after the millennial reign

- They will be raised to judgement (Great White Throne Judgement) and then will enter the age of eternity

The first resurrection is for the bride of Jesus, it's the **honeymoon** with Him for a thousand years

- It includes ruling and reigning with Him for a thousand years

Not every believer is part of the bride / honeymoon

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-12 ESV

1 Then the **kingdom** of heaven will be like **ten virgins** who took their lamps and went to meet the **bridegroom**. 2 Five of them were **foolish**, and five were **wise**. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took **no oil** with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and **slept**. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they were going to buy, the **bridegroom came**, and those who **were ready** went in with him to the **marriage feast**, and the **door was shut**. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, '**Lord, lord**, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do **not know you**.'

- a. The parable is about entering the **kingdom**, not about salvation
- b. All 10 were **virgins**—pure, holy, set apart for and waiting their bridegroom
- c. **Wise & foolish** was based on what **they did**, their works & stewardship; salvation is **not** based on works
 - A wise man builds His house on the rock; a foolish man on the sand (Matthew 7:24-27)
 - wise or foolish is demonstrated in how you build and steward your house
- d. **Oil** speaks of intimacy; you can have faith in Jesus (salvation), but not steward intimacy
- e. All 10 fell **asleep** – this is not negative; in the Bible first death (physical death) is referred to as sleep
- f. Only the 5 wise entered the **marriage feast**; the **door** was **shut**
- g. The 5 foolish still considered Jesus their 'Lord,' but didn't steward their life with Jesus as Lord
 - The foolish virgins missed the first resurrection and have to wait until after the millennial reign to enter into eternal life

2. Live in the **New Jerusalem** (the city of God) with Jesus

Those who don't enter the kingdom will be outside the city; they will be able to come in and out but won't live in the city

3. Receive **rewards**, **crowns**, and **glory** that are only for those in the kingdom of God

This should be massive motivation for believers to not only believe in Jesus as savior, but to make him Lord and become His disciples

It won't just affect our life here on earth, but also the next age to come (millennial reign), and also the eternal age/eternity

Hard times reveal who Jesus is to you—Savior or Lord

Lordship is costly

More Resources:

Distinction between Believers and Disciples – Jeremy Myers

<https://redeeminggod.com/believers-vs-disciples/>

The difference between eternal life & the kingdom of God - Watchman Nee, *The Gospel of God (Vol 1)*, Ch 9

<https://www.ministrysamples.org/excerpts/THE-DIFFERENCE-BETWEEN-ETERNAL-LIFE-AND-THE-KINGDOM.HTML>

See entire chapter 9 for full expert: https://www.ministrybooks.org/books/reader.php?hid=-Yt_DYF6XxGQ-silHVVKaB9f-RAktS86yQYmFU_Wjfe8GkKg5n3NJkYn8-hvHDoLg

Qualifications for entering the kingdom of the heavens - Watchman Nee, *The Gospel of God (Vol 2)*, Ch 21

<https://www.ministrybooks.org/books/reader.php?cid=THkEjmyQuTxo&s=0>

Eternal Life & Kingdom of God are similar concepts – this is the most common view and is expanded on here:

*(*I obviously disagree with this view and the entire above study proves they are not the same)*

<https://fbcmsq.org/?p=726>