

November 11, 2018

Jesus is my Lord!

"But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment...go and be reconciled to your brother...settle matters quickly with your adversary..." Matthew 5:21-26

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit...the acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord and jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, decensions, factions, and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like....I warn you that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Galatians 5:16-21

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice, Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:31-32

If Jesus is my Lord, then I must...

Following Jesus; living a life that reflects the Lordship of the Son of God, is not easy. If we choose to surrender our lives to Jesus then we cannot also choose to participate with the world in sin. Jesus makes it clear that we cannot serve two masters in Matthew 6:24. ***"No one can serve two masters."***

For those of us who have chosen to follow Jesus every day holds difficult choices between what Jesus teaches and commands and what the world wants us to accept. In his 'Sermon on the Mount' our Lord talks about the contrasts between what he commands and what the world of his day wanted to accept. ***"You have heard that it was said to those people long ago, 'Do not murder'...But I tell you anyone who is angry with his brother..."*** The Ten Commandment Law did forbid murder, but Jesus says that choosing to be angry with someone is the same thing.

How often in a single day do we get angry with someone? How often do we choose to let go of our tempers? Jesus would tell us that we cannot accept this behavior in ourselves. Anger is the same sin as murder in God's eyes.

The Apostle Paul repeats this same message in several of his letters. He writes to the Galatian believers that the sinful nature which leads them to acts of hatred, discord, fits of rage, decensions, and factions will keep them from inheriting the kingdom of God. He tells the Ephesian disciples that they must rid themselves of all bitterness, rage, and anger and every form of malice. He tells the Colossian believers that they must rid themselves of anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language.

Anyone living in our world right now has to acknowledge that there is a tremendous amount of pressure to participate in these very sins. We are being encouraged on all fronts to rage and slander, to judge and condemn. We must choose. We cannot participate with the world in those sins and claim to follow Jesus.

We must live one or the other. We cannot live both.

If I choose to live as those who have surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus then my words and actions will constantly reflect that choice. If Jesus is my Lord then the fruit of the Spirit will be found in my life. I will be filled with love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

If Jesus is my Lord then I will be made new in the attitude of my mind and put on the new self, "...created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness..." (Ephesians 4:23-24) If Jesus is my Lord I will choose to be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12-15)



If Jesus is my Lord my life must reflect his Lordship. If I speak and act like those who accept the sinful practices of the world then I cannot claim that Jesus is my Lord. If Jesus is my Lord then I must rid myself of those same sinful practices. I cannot choose both. I cannot live both. Either I am the light of the world, or I am not. Either I am the salt of the earth or I am not. If Jesus is my Lord, then I must...