

Living In The Name Of The Lord

Lesson 1: Jesus's Supreme Authority



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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Written by Eric Krieg

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Lesson 1: Jesus's Supreme Authority

Introduction

A. How do you determine what you should do, how you should live, what is right, and what is wrong?

B. Every person lives by some standard of authority. Sometimes this standard is your own self. Sometimes it is found in another person/other people.

C. Imagine yourself in the following scenario. Someone very close in your family has a terminal medical condition. You discover that the only available treatment is experimental and costs far more every month than you can afford. You try to borrow the money but can't. Your insurance will not cover the cost. And, there is no other help available. The only way to save your loved one's life is to steal the money.

1. What would you do? Why would you make that choice?

2. Although you will not always face such life and death decisions, your reasoning will give you insight into the standard of authority you live by.

D. The purpose of this series is to learn about Jesus's authority, why we should all live according to His authority, and how to live by His authority.

E. Purpose: To learn why Jesus has supreme authority, our need for authority, and the importance of living in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. Jesus Is Lord And King

A. Understanding "authority"

1. Someone with "authority" is one who is in a position to give orders, to judge the actions of another, to make and enforce laws, and determine the standard for proper conduct.

2. There are two essential components involved with having authority: Power and right. The one with authority is in a position of

power over another and has the right to instruct others in what they should do.

3. Whatever standard you use to determine the proper conduct in your life is therefore considered to have the power and the right to tell you how you should live.

B. God has all authority

1. Of all the various standards people often use in determining right and wrong, God is the only one who has the power and right over everything and everyone.

- The Bible teaches the “Trinity.” That is, there are three Beings who possess the nature of being God: The Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. All three have power and right over us (Matthew 28:19-20). And, they all function in a united way as one God, with the Father being presented as Head (1 Corinthians 11:3).

2. Why does God have the ultimate authority over how we should live?

- God is the Creator. Nothing that exists would exist without God (Genesis 1:1). Therefore, nothing and nobody could possibly have more authority (power and right) than God has! Read Psalm 104 to learn about how everything depends on God.
- God is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. These four characteristics separate God from everything and everyone else. All else had a beginning point, have limited power/ability, have limited knowledge, and have a limited presence – emphasizing God’s dominion (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- God calls people to be holy as He is holy. God is completely separated from everything that is evil (1 John 1:5). In fact, what God considers holy and unholy is the standard we must use to determine what is right and wrong (1 Peter 1:15-16).
- God is the Judge. God is the only one who is in the position to be the final Judge, with our eternal destinations hanging in the balance. Therefore, we must fear God and keep His commands throughout our lives (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

C. God has given all authority to Jesus

1. Although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit should all be honored as God, the Scriptures teach that God (the Father) has given all authority to Jesus (Matthew 28:18).

2. Jesus was sent from the Father and provided the perfect sacrifice to save us all. Because Jesus humbled Himself to be obedient to the Father to the point of dying on the cross, God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name that is above every name (Philippians 2:5-11)!

- Every knee (in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth) will bow before Him. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father! Some will choose to do this while they live on this earth (Matthew 10:32-33). The rest will bow before Him on Judgment Day (Romans 14:10-12).
- The name of Jesus Christ is the only name that provides salvation from our sins (Acts 4:12).
- God will judge the world by Jesus Christ. God has given proof of Jesus's authority by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

D. Jesus Christ is King

1. The idea of a king is that one is the supreme ruler over all others. So, others must submit to the king's authority.

2. Throughout Scripture, we can see God's promise to send a King. For example, God promised King David that He would establish an everlasting kingdom through the lineage of David (2 Samuel 7:16). The prophets also prophesied about this coming King (i.e. Isaiah 9:6-7).

3. Jesus Christ is this King! See Matthew 21:1-5 to see how Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey was related to the prophecy about Jesus as King.

- Jesus as King over His kingdom is a prominent theme throughout the New Testament Scriptures (Colossians 1:13; 1 Timothy 1:16-17).
- He is not just a king, but the King who is far above all other kings (Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 19:15-16)!

4. Jesus as King implies that He has the sole authority over our lives. If we desire to live as part of Jesus's kingdom and receive the blessings of being citizens of this kingdom, our lives must recognize His supreme authority and submit to Him in everything!

E. Jesus Christ is Lord

1. The idea of a lord is that one is the master over another. So, the servant must submit to the master's authority.

2. Throughout the gospel records (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) when Jesus was on earth, Jesus is declared as being Lord by those who followed Him and those who believed Him to be the Son of God (Matthew 8:2; Matthew 8:25; Matthew 15:25). Furthermore, Jesus declared Himself to be Lord (Matthew 12:8; Matthew 24:42).

3. Jesus as Lord and Messiah is the great climax of the sermon preached on Pentecost (Acts 2:36).

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead demonstrated that Jesus really is the Son of God. The apostles and others were witnesses to the resurrected Christ. Now, Jesus has been exalted to the honored position at the right hand of God (Acts 2:32-35).
- There should be no doubt, then, that God has given Jesus the position of Lord! Therefore, people must humble themselves and submit to Him (Acts 2:37-41).

4. Jesus as Lord implies that He has the sole authority over our lives. If we desire to live in Jesus's service and be found to be good and faithful servants, our lives must recognize His supreme authority and submit to Him in everything, as the one Lord/Master of our lives!

2. The Need For Authority

A. Why can't we just live according to our own authority?

1. Many rebel against authority because they do not want to recognize anyone as having the power or right to control any aspect of their lives. They just want to do and live in whatever ways they desire.

2. Consider how the need for authority is (generally) recognized in various areas of life.

- Regarding government. How well would society function if there was no one with the authority to make laws (i.e. regarding property, murder, driving automobiles, etc.), to enforce those laws, and no consequences for breaking those laws, etc.?
- Regarding the workplace. How well would businesses function if everyone could conduct themselves however they desired at work, if there was no accountability, if there was no agreed upon standards, etc.?

- Regarding school. How well would schools function if there were no universal standards of right and wrong (i.e. in math), if teachers could teach whatever they wanted, if students had just as much authority as the teachers, etc.?

3. Jesus set the example of listening to God's authority when He lived on earth. When He was tempted, He chose to follow what was written rather than live by His desires (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus devoted His life to doing the will of God, even when God's will was different from what He desired physically (John 4:34; John 5:30; Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42).

B. Why listen to Jesus's authority

1. Reasonable people recognize that there must be some kind of authority in these various areas of life. Yet, how does this apply to recognizing Jesus's authority?

2. God is the only one who knows all things (Romans 11:33-36). You are limited in your understanding and will often fail if you do not listen to God.

3. God will judge every aspect of how you have lived on this earth, determining whether you have done good or evil (2 Corinthians 5:10). You will not be able to escape God's judgment.

4. Failing to listen to God's authority is called "sin" (1 John 3:4). Sin results in spiritual death (separation from God, Romans 6:23) and eternal punishment in Hell (Revelation 21:8).

5. Refusing to accept Jesus's authority results in many consequences – physically and spiritually! For, refusing to accept Jesus's authority is, ultimately, to reject God's authority!

- Remember that God has the power and right over us. And, He has given all authority to Jesus – who is the Lord and King!

C. Learning from past rebellion to God's authority

1. We are taught in the Scriptures to learn from the past (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11). One area we need to learn is concerning how it worked out for people who rebelled against God's authority.

2. Adam and Eve (Genesis 2-3). Although God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they did not listen (evidently thinking it would be worth it). However, they experienced spiritual death, pain and suffering began, and they were cast out of the

Garden of Eden and separated from the tree of life, no longer being able to live forever.

3. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3). These two priests presented an offering to God that involved unauthorized fire which God had not commanded them. This resulted in God sending fire to consume them so that they died.

4. Korah (Numbers 16). Korah and others with him rebelled against God by challenging those He had given authority. As a result, God caused the earth to open and swallow them!

5. Although other examples could be given, you should notice that it never ends well for those who rebel against God's authority. In contrast, God always takes care of and rewards those who are faithful to Him in humble service!

3. Do Everything In The Name Of The Lord Jesus

A. Citizenship in Jesus's kingdom hinges on submitting to King Jesus

1. Consider the parable of the net (Matthew 13:47-50). Only those who do what is good will be rewarded. Those who do evil will be punished. And, good and evil is determined by what the King says!

2. Not just anyone gets to inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Only those who submit their lives to King Jesus so as to receive the forgiveness of their sins will inherit His kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)!

B. Lawlessness will be punished

1. Some people will never recognize Jesus as Lord or make any attempts to honor Him as King by obeying Him.

2. Others confess Jesus as "Lord" and do some good things in the name of Jesus (Matthew 7:21-23). However, because these did not live their whole lives in the name of the Lord, they are still guilty of lawlessness – and will be eternally separated from Jesus!

3. Clearly, it is not enough to just believe in Jesus and do some things in the name of Jesus. This is not the same as fully submitting yourself to Jesus as your King and Lord!

C. Everything must be yielded to King Jesus

1. Colossians 3:17 describes what is expected to please God.

- Whatever you do and whatever you say must be said and done “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” There are no acceptable exceptions!
- Notice that King Jesus expects you to do more in His name than just those things you may consider to be part of your “religious” service to Him. While this certainly applies to how you practice your religion, it also applies to every word you say, what you think about, how you treat other people, your characteristics and habits, your actions, etc.! Everything about your life must be laid at the feet of King Jesus, who is Lord of your life!

2. To do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus is to do everything by His authority.

- To do something in the name of another is to do it by that person’s authority. For example, an officer who tells another to “stop in the name of the law” is appealing to the authority of the government he serves. And, if you were the executor of an estate, you would carry out the desires of another by doing the things specified in the will, doing those things in the name of the one who had died.
- Doing everything in the name of the Lord, therefore, involves far more than just believing in Jesus, calling Him “Lord,” and saying that you do things in His name. It involves making sure everything you do, say, and think actually has King Jesus’s approval! So, you don’t just *think* or *hope* that Jesus is pleased with what you are doing. Rather, you act with confidence, knowing He has given His approval for whatever it is.
- Throughout this series, we will be exploring how we know whether we have Jesus’s approval for something or not.

Conclusion

A. All authority belongs to God – and He has given this authority to Jesus Christ. Today, you must recognize Jesus as the supreme authority over your life, as both King and Lord!

B. Then, you must determine that you will honor King Jesus throughout your life by doing everything in His name, as there is no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)!

Study Questions

How do you determine what you should do, how you should live, what is right, and what is wrong?

1. Jesus Is Lord And King

What does it mean for someone to have “authority”?

Why does God have all authority?

What authority has God (the Father) given to Jesus?

What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be King?

What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be Lord?

2. The Need For Authority

Why can't we just live according to our own authority?

Why listen to Jesus's authority?

What can you learn from people who rebelled against God's authority in the past?

3. Do Everything In The Name Of Jesus

How does citizenship in Jesus's kingdom hinge on submitting to King Jesus?

What will God do to those who practice lawlessness?

How much of your life must be yielded to King Jesus?

