

The lordship of Jesus Christ has a significant impact not only on the local churches of the CBAC, but also on churches across the world. Accepting Christ's claims as the Son of God and the authority that this grants Him, and following His commands, is the basis of the Christian faith. Christ is the cornerstone to Christianity, and without Him, there would be no saviour and no new covenant. In order to accept Christ's claims and obey Him, it is critical for one to first understand what Jesus has claimed to be. It is also important for one to understand what it means for Christ to be one's Lord, and see examples of what that relationship looks like. Failure to properly understand the lordship of Jesus can jeopardize one's walk in the Christian faith, and hinder the growth of one's church if left unchecked.

Throughout scripture, it is made clear that Jesus was not just a prophet or healer, but rather He was the Son of God and Lord of all. Jesus' disciples refer to Jesus as Lord in the gospel accounts, and in Matthew 16, Peter goes on to say that he does not just see Jesus as a teacher, but rather as the Messiah. In Acts 2, Peter testifies this belief to those present at Pentecost by saying that the same Jesus who was crucified is the one who was made Lord and Christ. In his letter to the Romans, Paul expands on this idea of lordship by explaining that Jesus is not the Lord of the Jews exclusively, but He is Lord of all who call on His name. The prophetic foretelling of the Messiah in Isaiah 53 points to Jesus as Christ, and the apocalyptic book of Revelation describes Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. These passages are just a few of the many passages that testify to the lordship and authority that has been given to Jesus.

When one calls Jesus "Lord" or "Master," there is a certain weight that can often be forgotten today. Lordship refers to the idea of supreme power and authority to rule, and a lord has a weighted authority behind the words and commands given by the lord to any who are under them. Furthermore, a master has similar power to a lord, but while one may perceive a lord in the

context of royalty or governing power, a master is typically seen more in domestic life, with servants or slaves working and caring for the master's sake. As Christians, the lordship of Christ requires one to submit oneself under the authority of Jesus, both as a church congregation and as an individual. In practice, submitting oneself under Christ is more than just a title or attendance in a Sunday service. When looking into the life of Jesus, one can clearly see that He lived His life serving others, and His love for those around Him was obvious. Christ is Lord, and He explains in John 13 that His life is an example of how His followers should live. Because the Master has lived for the sake of others, with love, the one who submits oneself under Jesus must also live a life that blesses others. Jesus' first disciples can also serve as examples of how one should live under the lordship of Christ, with unwavering loyalty to their Lord. Both scripture and history show that early Christians were severely persecuted for their faith, and many died because of their loyalty to Jesus. Even today, Christians all over the globe are imprisoned, beaten, or killed because of their faith, but even this persecution was demonstrated by the Lord Christ. Jesus states that no servant is greater than one's master, and His followers will partake in the same cup of suffering that He partakes in.

This relationship between the Lord and His people is special, and it is expected that His people love others and remain loyal to Him, even in the midst of persecution. Today, churches in Atlantic Canada are not facing the same type of persecution that can be found in other areas of the world or in the time of the early Church. Social persecution can be found against the Church, and the internet can spread all kinds of opinions against any type of faith, but the greater concern that one may have is the quality of loyalty under Christ that Christians in Atlantic Canada have. In a digital age, it is easy to become bombarded by the thoughts and opinions of others over social media, and such opinions are easily able to pressure Christians to accept secular living,

even at the expense of Christian values. Social pressure is a serious factor today more than ever before, and it is important to remain vigilant in our loyalty under Christ's lordship. Complacency and indifference are toxins that can easily spread throughout a church, and they will inevitably kill any growth in churches if left unchecked. To remedy this, it is important for churches to ask if they are operating as though Christ is Lord, or if they have been wooed by the temptations of the world. Individuals must ask whether one is bending one's knee to the will and commands of Jesus, or if they have begun serving a different master. It is comfortable to grow complacent, and one must first ask and become aware of such an issue before one can correct the behaviour.

The lordship of Christ has a significant impact on churches, both local and across the globe. Scripture clearly describes Jesus as Lord, and His people are called to follow His example. Even through various forms of persecution, Christians are called to loyally love and serve others in the name of Christ, but it can become easy to stray from Christ's commands when one allows someone or something else to act as one's lord. Only through careful vigilance and loyalty to Christ can churches effectively minister to others.

Submitted by Daniel Flower