

## Stand Together: One Lord

October 10, 2020

Do you know the difference between a name and a title? A name is for identification. A title is for position. A name differentiates one person from another. Everyone has a name. Some have a title. In the US, a title is often earned by academic or professional purposes. A name is what people call you. A title what you have achieved. A name is what you are known by. A title is what you want others to know about you.

Does Jesus have a title?

Yes. He has two.

The first is primarily Jewish—Messiah, in Greek the word is rendered—Christ. Christ means Anointed One. When you read, Jesus Christ—think Jesus the Anointed One promised from the Old Testament.

Today we are going to focus on the other title for Christ. The One bestowed upon him after rising from the dead and ascending on high. The title given to him as the unrivaled authority not just over a nation, or a region, or even the world. But over the entire universe.

What title does Jesus have now?

Lord.

If you are a Christian, you know this because you read especially in the epistles, “the Lord Jesus.” I am more likely to think of Jesus savior more than Lord. Or Son of God more than Lord.

Both are true—but would it surprise you to hear that Jesus is referred to as Savior around 17 times and the Son of God around 15 times, but Lord 184 times.

Is he savior? Yes.

Is he the Son? Yes.

But the OVERWHELMING testimony of the NT is that this Jesus is LORD. Today we will think about what it means to serve this ONE LORD united together.

As you know if you have been here, we are thinking about what unites us together as a church. It is not enough to say—BE UNITED. No, that will not do. The scriptures always give us reasons for its direction. And we have been looking at the fourth chapter of Ephesians to understand what we are united around and upon.

The ties that bind us are spiritual. We have seen:

We are NOT a collection of individuals. We are ONE BODY.

We have been brought together by ONE SPIRIT.

We do not always have the same opinions, but we have ONE HOPE.

And today we remind ourselves that we do not PRIMARILY serve a president, or a governor, or a mayor, or any elected official, but our ONE LORD. Today we are going to continue fight against the thick fog of rancor and contention that is dividing our nation and saying:

We will be UNITED.

And we will unite under our ONE LORD.

Main idea: Serve the ONE LORD together.

This idea I get from Ephesians 4: 1-6. Usually we preach through sections of scripture or whole books of the Bible and see Jesus on every page. Today we focus in on two words: ONE LORD.

[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.  
Ephesians 4:1–6

PRAY

Together we SERVE the Lord.

The Lord.  
Your Lord.

### *1. The Lord—*

I use that word THE on purpose. Our Jesus is not A Lord but The Lord. He has all power and authority. He is the unquestioned, undisputed, unequivocal, explicit king over the entire universe.

Above all human power.  
Above all spiritual power.  
Above all.

That is what it means to say that Jesus is THE Lord.

But how did he become the LORD?

By leaving heaven? Not entirely.  
By becoming a baby? Not entirely.  
By living as a man? Not entirely.  
By dying on the cross? Not entirely.  
By being buried? Not entirely.

Peter tell us HOW in the very first Christian sermon so long ago—

[36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Acts 2:36

And again, in Romans:

[9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Romans 14:9

How did Jesus become LORD of all?

By showing that he had power over all things. How did he do that? He defeated the most formidable foe in the universe. He destroyed the destroyer of worlds.

He became Lord because he defeated the power of death by rising again.

He is Lord because he proved himself to have power and authority over even the power of death. You see in his death and resurrection he is doing more than we might think. He is not just showing how powerful he is. By rising again, he showed his authority.

He showed himself to be Lord.

Here is something that is not so obvious—in the Old Testament—God the Father was called Lord because he created all things. In the NT, Jesus is given the same title

because he rose from the dead. Jesus is Lord over all things and he is equal with God the Father.

That is unexpected.

Jesus is THE Lord.

You and I owe him complete and total allegiance.

Jesus our Lord is our Lord precisely for the opposite reason than we might think. At Eden, Adam strove to take the place of God by eating from the knowledge of good and evil. He grasped at something to be considered equal with God.

Jesus gave up equality with God and yet was exalted by God as the Lord over all creation—That is why Paul can say in one of the most important passages of the Bible for you and me—he can give an implication of the Lordship of Jesus—

[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39

The reason that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus is because Jesus is the Lord over all things. He has the power to keep at bay death and life, angels and rulers, things today, things to come all power, all distance and all else in every

realm of the created order BECAUSE he is the undisputed Lord over all things.

He is THE LORD.

He is THE Lord. Now we will consider what it means for him to be OUR one LORD—

## **2. *Our Lord*—**

We live in a fallen world stained by the power of sin. How do we know that it is passing away? Because Jesus is Lord, but also because Jesus is OUR Lord.

Not only does he have power over all things. But he has authority over you and I. We are not free agents able to do what we want, how we want to, when we want in whatever way we want. We are meant to serve our Lord.

So when we read,

Vs. 1,

[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...

We MUST hear it as not as a suggestion, but as direction from our Lord. Together we must make every effort to MAINTAIN

unity here. That does not mean we are going to have the same opinion about everything—politically, nationally or otherwise—but it DOES mean that we do not allow those differences of opinion to divide us.

Why? In part. We serve the ONE Lord together.

Think a bit about what that means—

Because there is ONE Lord and we as Christians are united together under him in this church (if this is your church—if not apply this at your church), we must steadfastly refuse to let the rancorous age we live in divide us. This is difficult.

The church is meant to be the place full of people who are VERY different but serve under the same Lord.

We HAVE.

- Different Backgrounds
- Different Nationalities.
- Different Ages.
- Different Education.
- Different Genders.
- Different Interests.
- Different Disappointments.
- Different Sufferings.

Our world would want to emphasize where we are all different—but OUR LORD would want to emphasize where



we are the SAME. We can be—we must be united to ANY who call upon Jesus as LORD.

- Different Backgrounds—the SAME Lord.
- Different Nationalities—the SAME Lord.
- Different Ages—the SAME Lord.
- Different Education—the SAME Lord.
- Different Genders—the SAME Lord.
- Different Interests—the SAME Lord.
- Different Disappointments—the SAME Lord.
- Different Sufferings—the SAME Lord.

Making every effort to keep the unity around here does not mean that we tamp down our differences or have all the same preferences as a church—NO! But, it does mean that we can put those differences aside to serve, worship, follow, celebrate, cherish—OUR ONE LORD TOGETHER.

See the difference?

I can be united in the same church with ANYONE so long as they serve my Lord.

Understand this task—

We don't make every effort to make Jesus Lord. He already is.

Rather—we need to make every effort to remember that he is our ONE Lord. We have to make every effort to remember that

no matter how much that person in your small group grates on you—you serve the same Lord—in the same church.

How can you make every effort to maintain together under our ONE LORD?

This is going to be different for all of us.

- Are you more passionate about your LORD or your presidential candidate?

Whoever wins in just over three weeks will be a disappointment to one degree or another. That is just what is going to happen. Am I saying the election is not important? No. I AM saying—more importantly the scripture is saying that our church must be indivisible in a way that our nation never could be.

- Are you willing to overlook differences with others that serve your LORD?

We should be. We must be.

Part of making every effort starts with making every effort to serve your Lord in every situation. If you are a Christian, you belong to Jesus. He has purchased you and he has ALL rights over you.

You are no longer your own.

He is your Lord. Do you live like Jesus is your Lord? Or do you live like you are your own Lord?

Jesus has authority over every area of my life. Jesus has authority over every area of your life. We do not have the freedom to be who we want to be. We do not have the freedom to dabble with sin.

Is there a sin that you are playing with?

We Christians are not going to be sinless this side of the resurrection, BUT there can be times we put up with sins that we should not. We make excuses. We give ourselves a pass.

You have a LORD. You are not your Lord. You cannot do as you please.

Go to him and ask for forgiveness—he is gracious and kind. He does not get angry. He loves you with an immeasurable love.

Think about the kindness of our Lord. Ever forgiving.

He was unlike Adam. Adam wanted to take the place of God and turned from God. Not our Lord. Our Lord did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but willingly gave up everything by dying on the cross.

“His deep humiliation led to an immense exaltation.” Bavinck

May we be united under this LORD.

The one who has all authority and uses that authority to show us kindness.

Show kindness to others.

The one who has all authority and uses that authority to give us grace.

Give grace to others.

The one who has all authority and uses that authority to forgive.

Forgive others.

May we make every effort to serve our Lord by keeping the unity of Center Church.