

The CORE  
A Discipleship Tool of FBC, Nowata

**The Core is designed to help you understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like and then learn how to develop those characteristics in your life.**

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“Take Up Your Cross”

This weeks CORE centers on the Practice of “Giving Away Your Life.” In Luke 9:23-26 Jesus tells us that if we want to follow Him we must learn how to die daily. What exactly is He talking about? He certainly is not talking about physical suicide. He is speaking of a spiritual reality. He is speaking about self-denial, giving up your own way of life and doing things His way.

The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:7-11, *7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead. Phil 3:7-11 (HCSB)*

Giving away your life is about submitting all you are, have, or desire to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As Christians we are called to surrender and submit ourselves daily to Jesus. This requires a daily laying down of our own ways - our life - and taking up His. During this week we want to focus our attention on this deep and difficult subject. The teaching of God is clear on the subject but the practice of the teaching is hard. Let us prepare our hearts for what God will teach us through His word. Ask Him for wisdom and the strength to follow through with what He says to do.

Enjoy the journey with your Lord and Savior Jesus. His presence is what makes everything worthwhile!

I love being your pastor! Todd

SECTION 1

1. Find a dictionary and write out the definition of lordship.
2. Read Luke 6:46, John 13:13 and II Corinthians 5:15. From these verses write your own definition of lordship. How does your definition based on scripture differ from the one found in the dictionary?
3. Read Colossians 1:15-18.
  - A. What is Jesus the Lord over according to these verses?
  - B. Why is He Lord over these things?
  - C. If Jesus is the creator, what other position should He have in your life?
4. Read Acts 2:36 and Philippians 2:8-11. What position is Jesus to have in your life?

SECTION 2

1. Think about this statement, “Jesus Christ is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all.” What’s your response?

2. Read Matthew 6:24

A. Why is it impossible to serve 2 masters at the same time?

B. The 2 “masters” mentioned in this verse are God and money. What are some other worldly “masters” we face?

C. Can you remember a time when you tried to serve 2 masters? What was the result?

D. Is there a choice you are facing right now that involves Christ’s Lordship? Write it down and pray over it.

### SECTION 3

1. Read Romans 7:21-23. Why is submitting to the Lordship of Christ so difficult for many of us?

2. Read Jeremiah 29:11. If you really believe this verse is true, how can it help you with Lordship?

3. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Which phrase of this prayer emphasizes your submission to Christ’s Lordship? Explain your answer.

4. What do you believe to be the biggest reasons people fail to submit to the Lordship of Christ? Are there verses to support your answers?

Closing thoughts:

In the book, Essentials of Discipleship, from which this Bible study largely came, Francis Cosgrove, Jr. speaks about the ‘Stages of Obedience.’ I believe this is a practical place for us to close out the CORE. We must see that we are to be obedient to God’s word. We can’t just study it - we must put it into practice. Maybe this little piece will help you to bring application to your study.

“Obedience is tied into a lordship decision. You cannot separate obedience and submission. Bob Boardman, a missionary in Japan, has identified 5 stages of obedience. It is good to evaluate our life in light of them periodically.

1. “I am going to do what I want to do no matter what God wants.” Many Christians realize that this is wrong, but they still live according to this pattern. Essentially they do not want Christ to rule their life.

2. “If God will give me what I want first, then I will give Him an equal exchange.” This is bargaining with God; I will give Him what I think is an equal exchange. If God will only give me the job I want, then I will give Him some of my time in exchange.

3. “If God will give me what I want first, then I will give Him what He wants.” This is also bargaining with God. This stage is similar to the second stage, but includes a willingness to give God what He wants.

4. “I will give God what He wants first, then in faith believe that He will give me what I want.” This has finally reversed the ‘me-first’ approach, but it is still a form of bargaining. I am expecting God to do something for me because I have done something for Him.

5. “I will give God whatever He wants, regardless of whether He gives me what I want.” This is Lordship in practice. This is the crucial stage in our obedience.

(Cosgrove, p. 47-48)

This Weeks Memory Verse:

Jeremiah 29:11

PERSONAL NOTES