

House Cleaning
1Cor.6:1-18
7-11-2010

What does the Lordship of Jesus Christ mean to you? What does it mean to other people? What does it mean biblically and is there a difference? Christians' lives should look different than the heathen masses around us shouldn't they? (Yes) Why? The Lordship factor would be one good answer.

Becoming a Christian is not like joining some club or lodge. Our membership in the "Kingdom" is radically and dynamically different. Reason with me for just a minute as we consider some of these dynamics at work. In Colossians 1:12-14 Paul makes reference to several things of note: being qualified, a being rescued, a brought into and out of.

(...the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ...)

When a person submits to the demands of salvation they are also submitting to a new system of government over their lives. This is not a service to tyranny but a service of love. When a person submits the Almighty God and Father goes to work. The Father qualifies, (2Cor.3:5-6) He makes us fit to be a part of Him and His.

By His hand He rescues us from slavery and bondage and so much more. (2Cor.1:10; 2Tim.3:11, 4:16-18) Jesus is the Deliverer (Rescuer) of His people. (Acts 26:18; 2Cor.4:3-6; Eph.6:12)

By His power and might He transports us out of one kingdom into another even though we physically may move nowhere. This taking us out of one and putting us in another is not within any man or woman's power to do by their own power or ability. (Lk.16:4; Acts 19:26 shows a change in position)

The reading from 1Cor.6 shows Paul's argument that those who are now in Christ are free to live above the standards of this world. Our freedom is from being controlled and destroyed by all those things that are destroying the heathens around us. Their appetites of the flesh have control over their lives and their choices.

Christians are free to choose not to indulge the flesh. Paul shows the true relationship that we have to food and to sex and other pulls of the flesh. Each have cultural and social pulls upon lives. His argument for living free from control (bondage or slavery or mastery over) is the positional change in the believer's life.

The wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God. (Verse 6:9) When someone is controlled by the base desires of the flesh they are in fact defeated. Paul uses the law suit as his example (verses 1-8) The argument is the same for each of the listed traits of the sinful nature. Being defeated by any of them can be a reality in the believer's life.

The process of being rescued by the Lord includes being washed, sanctified, and justified. (Verse 11) Being a Christian is being one who has gone through this process. Once a person goes through God's cleaning and repositioning, it is that person who is now qualified or made fit. This being made fit is more than just cleaned up for being in the Kingdom (positional) but most importantly it is being made clean for He who now dwells within. (verses 19-20) You have been cleaned so that you may house God.