

Essentials of Discipleship

Chapter 3 – The Lordship of Jesus Christ

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Resource: Essentials of Discipleship by Francis Cosgrove published by Roper Press in 1988. *This short 12 chapter book outlines eleven essentials of what a disciple of Jesus Christ is and how each disciple should become a disciple-making disciple. These study guides offer an outline of the book with some questions to be used in reviewing and discussing the content. Each student will need to obtain and read the book as well. After the initial chapters titled: What is a Disciple? & The Disciple is a Learner; the author reviews the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is the umbrella for the remaining nine essentials or characteristics of a disciple.*

- I. Introduction - EOD #2: A disciple puts Christ first in all areas of his or her life.
 - A. Summary (p.17-18)

Jesus has the right of ownership over us since He died on the Cross for our sins. If we say we believe in Him or trust Him or are saved; that we submit to His Lordship; then we are to live for Him. (see 2 Corinthians 5:15). We are to seek the Kingdom of God first. This is one of the greatest struggles for the Christian, i.e., the battle between self and the will of God. Cosgrove says that the cause of most of our problems may be a failure to yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ – our model. He said that He is to be Lord of our lives (after he modeled servanthood by washing his disciple’s feet). The first step to being a true disciple is to put Jesus first in all areas of life. He will be either just present or truly prominent. Some make Him preeminently supreme in their lives. Where is Christ in your life? Just as Savior or Savior and Lord?
 - B. Scriptures:
 1. Matthew 6:9-13, 24, 33 _____
 2. Luke 9:23 _____
 3. John 13:13 _____
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:15 _____
 - C. Introductory comments:
 1. We must succeed in taking self off of the throne and putting Christ on the throne in our lives.
 2. Is this a one-time experience or a daily commitment (recommitment)?
 3. How did Christ earn the right to have authority and the sovereignty over you? Over us?
 4. Why is the Lordship of Christ so important? Why do we have to obey Him?
 5. The Westminster Confession of Faith (with Catechisms) is a summary of doctrines for teaching and life. (Catechism #1 – The chief end of man is to glorify God!)
- II. Jesus as Lord (By virtue that Jesus is Triune God, he already has authority over creation)
 - A. Who God Is:
 1. The Bible uses many different words and concepts to describe God
 - a. Why is it important to understand these concepts?
 - b. Jesus Christ is Lord by virtue of the salvation He secured for us
 - c. What is the redemption Jesus provided for us?
 - B. Areas where Jesus Christ is already Lord:
 1. Jesus is Lord over the Angels
 - a. What is the Trinity that angels worship?
 2. Jesus is Lord over Satan
 - a. How did His death on the cross prove He triumphed over Satan, powers & authorities
 - b. How can we be victorious over temptations?

3. Jesus is Lord over the Nations.
 - a. Who holds the final authority?
4. Jesus is Lord over all Creation
 - a. Read Colossians 1:15-17. Jesus Christ is the creator and sustainer of all things
5. Daily Lordship
 - a. Distinguish between lip service vs. boldly acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord
 1. What is the result of not submitting to Christ's Lordship?
Does God get angry with us for not submitting to His Lordship? Discuss the implications of the coming Judgment Day.

III. Jesus Christ's Plan for His Disciples/We realize the unique plan for our lives AFTER submitting to Jesus

A. Submission at All Times

1. God's Plan for us is to be like Christ
 - a. What does John 4:34 and Romans 8:29 say about submission? Is this practical?
 - b. What does Cosgrove say is our problem?
 - c. How does God promise to help us? (Romans 6)

B. Submission of Every Area of our Life -"The whole principle of Lordship is the abdication of self on the throne of one's life and the invitation to Jesus to sit on the throne."

1. Explain the Pie Illustration (Figure 1). How does this illustration the Lordship of Christ?
2. What was the author's example about giving God control?

C. The Battle of Submission

1. Many Christians won't enter the battle over control for fear of two things? What are these?
2. What are the 4 reasons offered why people do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
3. Cosgrove says, "Fear and faith are mutually exclusive. He who believes does not fear and he who fears does not really believe".
 - a. How can we trust Jesus Christ with our eternal future?
4. The abundant Christian life depends on Jesus Christ being our _____ day in and day out.

D. Stages of Obedience: "Obedience is tied into a Lordship decision".

1. What did Bob Boardman, a missionary in Japan, identify as the five stages of obedience?
 - a. (1) _____
 - b. (2) _____
 - c. (3) _____
 - d. (4) _____
 - e. (5) _____

IV. Conclusion: Cosgrove says, "Protecting Christ's Lordship is the first essential of becoming a disciple of the Lord – the most vital one". Thus the remaining nine essentials of discipleship are under the essential of His Lordship. Cosgrove says we will have the fullness of Christian living only where Jesus Christ is Lord. This is the way God ordained life. Personally, I was not committed to Jesus Christ until I invited Him to be both the Savior and my Lord.

TMS D3 – BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE – Separate From the World for Chapter 3 (1 John 2:15-16)