


2020.12.17 & 20



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- 1** How do each of the following passages describe fallen mankind's attitude toward God?  
Colossians 1:21; 2:8, 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Timothy 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Timothy 2:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ephesians 4:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Titus 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 1:21, 28; 3:11; 6:21; 8:6-8, 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2** Which of those attitudes have you ever seen in yourself? What resulted? How did you change?
  - Review insights on **Committed Christians**, **Skeptics**, and the **Lukewarm** (see **Sermon Summary**).
- 3** Without naming names, describe someone in each category who you know personally.
- 4** What advice would you give to each, based on your own personal experience with Christ?
- 5** Read Romans 6:20-23. Jesus' lordship in our lives is described as "enslavement to God". **How** does that strike you—**and why**?
- 6** What results from living under Jesus' lordship? How have you seen that in your life?

## Application-Challenge

Sense the darkness in your own heart—and don't imagine you can be good enough to earn God's acceptance. Understand that the Bible really is all about Jesus—then let him save you by his grace.

When you find your heart pushing back against Jesus' lordship, remember what he did for you. Then, let your light shine in this dark world. Point people to the God who loves them so much that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life!

**7**  
Need help living under God's lordship?  
Write to:  
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

1 The following answers are from the New American Standard Bible (one of the most literal of translations), so group members' translations may vary, but they should find something similar to these:

- Colossians 1:21 **“hostile”**; 2:8 **“deceived”**, 18 **“fleshly”**
- 2 Corinthians 3:14 **“hardened”**; 4:4 **“blinded”**
- 1 Timothy 6:5 **“corrupted”**
- 2 Timothy 2:25-26 **“ensnared...captured”**
- Ephesians 4:17-18 **“futile...darkened”**
- Titus 1:15 **“defiled”**
- Romans 1:21 **“foolish”**, 28 **“depraved”**; 3:11 **“”**; 6:21 **“death-producing (ie. lethal)”**;  
8:6-8 **“dead...unable to submit to God...unable to please God”**, 13 **“death-producing”**

Note: **“fleshly”** doesn't refer to our physical bodies, but rather to our anti-God orientation which resulted from Genesis 3.

2 Since many of these terms are richly theological (rather than just English language vocabulary), in order to answer this question, it would be very helpful to look up many of these words in Webster's **original** dictionary, which can be found online at: <webstersdictionary1828.com>

3 In order to speed this up (as well as to involve more people), it might be wise to ask for two volunteers who'd like to tell about a “committed Christian” they know, two who will tell about a “skeptic” they know, and two who will tell about a “lukewarm person” they know.

4 Now comes an opportunity for vulnerability and honesty within the group (even more than at 2!). A way to involve more people (ie, more than responded at 3) would be to ask for different volunteers to give their own advice for each of those categories of people. (Realize that in doing so, they may be speaking out of their own personal experience (eg. when **they** were a skeptic or lukewarm.)

5 You may wish to probe how group members respond **emotionally** to the terms “lord” (ie. lordship), and “enslavement (slaves of sin, enslaved to God). We Americans **love** our autonomy, but St. Paul gloried in the fact that he was a “slave of Christ”. What does our reaction to this tell us about ourselves?


6 “Sanctification” (ie, real growth in Christ-likeness) results of living under the lordship of King Jesus, and “eternal life” is the outcome of sanctification (Romans 6:22). Which brings up an important question: Can how much confidence of eternal life can we have if we're not seeing signs of sanctification now?

7 Please urge group members to take advantage of the free biblical counseling (a.k.a. “discipleship”) their church offers! Sanctification is a serious issue. Counseling is a part of the normal Christian life.

Similarly, the PointMan study of the Gospel of John (see next page) is an opportunity for growth.

# Men—

# Don't miss this opportunity for spiritual growth in 2021!



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