

“A Lordship Problem”

A blog post by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

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1 Corinthians 8:5–6 (NLT)

⁵ [Pagans]...worship many gods and many lords. ⁶ But for us, There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.

The word “*Lord*” isn’t a name it’s a title—a title for the one who controls your life (your master)—the one whom you unconditionally obey—and yet Jesus said to some of His disciples:

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

John 14:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments...”

In other words, Jesus is telling His followers—*“If you say you love Me—prove it by obeying Me!”*

If I were to ask all of you—*‘How many of you love Jesus’*—no doubt all of you would immediately raise your hands.

But what if I then asked you—*“How many of you are in love with Jesus?”*—I think a good number of you wouldn’t be able to raise your hand so quickly—or at all.

Some of you are probably thinking to yourselves, *“Well I love Jesus—isn’t that enough!?”*

No, because I love my sister, but I’m in love with my wife—and everyone listening to my voice knows the difference between loving someone (as a friend or relative) and then being in love with someone. Being *in* love with someone expresses a whole different level of love for someone than does friendship or even family love in general.

There are things I would do for my wife that I probably wouldn’t do for someone else in the way of sacrifice and service.

Let me say this to you—your obedience to Jesus will be directly tied to how much you love Him—in other words, do you love Him as a friend (fondness, affection) or are you in love with Him as your Bridegroom (the deepest kind of love)?

Listen to me—this whole subject is tied to spiritual warfare.

Victory in spiritual warfare is very simple—if you’re going to be a victorious Christian—if you’re going to overcome and devil and the world—you must obey the Lord Jesus.

And if you’re going to consistently obey your Lord—you must love Him supremely above everything and everyone—

Mark 12:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ *And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* 'This is the first [the supreme] commandment.

In other words, you must be in love with the Lord Jesus.

So much of our defeat in the Christian life is because we’re trying to have victory in our own strength because it will benefit us in some way—losing weight will cause me to look better; stopping smoking will help me live longer etc.

It’s not that losing weight and stopping smoking are bad things (they’re not) but let’s be honest—our love for Jesus really isn’t at the heart of those desires—self-love is motivating those desires. When that happens, when Jesus really isn’t our first love (self is), all kinds of problems result—problems that many Christians don’t even realize are tied to their lack of love for and obedience to the Lord Jesus.

Look, let me come at this from a slightly different perspective.

So many Christian couples have marital problems and/or financial problems and they come to church wanting the pastor to basically fix their problems from the pulpit or in counseling—but a pastor can’t fix a problem that really isn’t the problem!

You might be thinking—“*What in the world are you talking about?!*”

Show me a husband who doesn’t cherish his wife, who doesn’t sacrifice himself for her according to God’s command to him in Ephesians 5:25-28, but instead is always demanding that she submit, submit, submit like some kind of hired servant—and I’ll show you a man who doesn’t have a marriage problem—he has a Lordship problem!

And by the same token, show me a wife who doesn’t respect and submit to her husband according to God’s command to her in Ephesians 5:22-24, but is always challenging him, who seldom if ever submits to him when she disagrees with the decisions he makes—and I’ll show you a woman who doesn’t have a marriage problem—she has a Lordship problem!

Likewise, show me a Christian couple who have spent themselves into financial debt to the point of bankruptcy by buying everything they see and ‘can’t live without’ in disobedience to Jesus’ command not to lay up treasures on the earth but to use their resources to lay up treasures in heaven by supporting the work of God’s Kingdom—and I’ll show you a couple who don’t have a financial problem—they have a Lordship problem!

We could apply this to many of the issues and problems we face in our Christian life.

Show me a Christian who harbors resentment and bitterness or even hatred in their heart for members of different races, political affiliations, towards co-workers or their boss or towards those who have hurt or wronged them in some way.

Show me a Christian like that and I'll show you a Christian who doesn't have relational problems—they have a Lordship problem.

Remember it was the Lord Jesus who commanded us as Christians to love one another (John 13:34-35)—it was the Lord Jesus who even commanded us to love our enemies. (Matthew 5:43-45)

If your love for Jesus is not greater than any differences you have with others—be it marital, political, racial, economic, or any other issue or conflict you may have with another and refuse to die to self with regard to—then make no mistake about it—you have a Lordship problem.

When we refuse to love and forgive people who have hurt us or wronged us (especially our spouse)—the problem isn't with them, the problem is with us.

What is the problem? (let's just be brutally honest)—we are demonstrating self-love. ***We are loving ourselves more than we love Jesus!***

We are flat out demonstrating that we are not in love with Him but are more in love with ourselves! Whether we realize it or not—self-love is at the heart of all of our problems in marriage and in our Christian lives in general.

And now the question on your mind is probably—“*So how can I fall in love with Jesus?*”

1. **Desire to be in love with Jesus as you once were—starting with your ‘mind’** (your ‘heart, soul and strength’ will follow)—**starting with the way you think about your relationship with Him**

Look, Satan has attacked your mind with regard to your relationship with Jesus making you think something or someone else is more important (will fulfill you more) than your relationship with Him.

That's why returning to Jesus and falling back in love with Him has to start in your mind—you need to have a change of mind about Him. What I'm talking about is *repentance*—which literally means ‘*to have a change of mind.*’

Wasn't that exactly what Jesus said to the church of Ephesus?

Revelation 2:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent [have a change of mind] and do the first works [the things you did when you first fell in love with Me], or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

2. **Pray fervently day after day for God to give you the grace to fall in love with Jesus until it becomes a reality (starting with your devotions)**

Understand that the love you're asking for isn't human love—it's **God's love**.

God's love can only come from Him!

Therefore, to be filled with God's agape love you must draw close to Him everyday so that *His* love will flow into your heart and bear the fruit of falling in love with Jesus.

3. **Have faith that God will answer your prayer because it is absolutely His will that you love Him supremely.**

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

James 1:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom [or anything else that God wants to give], let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Remember, when you fall in love with Jesus you will begin to obey Him consistently with all of your heart. The result will be, you will no longer have a Lordship *problem*, you will have a Lordship passion!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).