

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANS SURRENDER TO JESUS

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Last week, I said, “You can be a Christian and not care what God has to say in His Word, but you can’t be a good one!” This was in response to my hearing an acquaintance of mine – a person who was active in their church and who did good to people – a person whom I know has been regularly exposed to God’s Word – exclaim, “I don’t care what the *Bible* says about _____, I believe _____.”

Hearing this come from this person, I was astonished by their attitude. It caused me to recoil at their professed lack of yieldedness to the lordship of Jesus. So, as I have been thinking about this, I must ask, “Christian, who was it that you put your trust in? Santa Claus? The Jeannie in the Bottle? The Tooth Fairy? Or was it Jesus, *the Lord*?”

We don’t really understand that word “Lord” these days, especially here in America. We have no kings or lords whom we must obey, but they do in many places in the world. Merriam-Webster defines Lord as, “one having power and authority over others: a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due.” A lord requires absolute obedience. If we are to please Jesus, we must do what He says and adopt His pronouncements as our rule and guide.

Jesus claimed to be Lord. “*You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.*” (John 13:13) In His sermon in Luke 6, He admonished His disciples, “*Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*” (Luke 6:46) In His sermon on the mountain (Matthew 5:1 – 7:28), He said His disciples (and by extension, all believers) were to be “salt and light” among men. We are to flavor and illuminate our world by displaying a consistent, Christ-like character to make Jesus attractive to those who do not yet know Him. We are to show them His love.

It is primarily through His Word, the *Bible*, that we know how to live in a manner that glorifies God and makes Him attractive to those who don’t know Him. None of us does this perfectly, certainly not me. We all need the enabling and filling of the Holy Spirit; however, when we fail to live up to what He has shown us, our behavior reveals our contempt for Him and His Word. Instead of drawing the lost to Jesus, “*God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of [us].*” (Romans 2:24, edited)

Jesus expects and deserves to be fully obeyed. To do so requires us to *surrender* to His will every day. We must die to our selves each day, often moment by moment, and be alive to God in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul spent a significant portion of Romans 6 telling us this. He said we are to, “*count [ourselves] dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*” (Romans 6:11, edited) To be good and faithful servants, we must set our desires and opinions aside (die to ourselves) and adopt and act on His.

The *Bible* counsels us to “*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*” (1 Peter 2:12) Don’t be naïve! The pagans know how we are supposed to be behaving, whether we do or not. How can we live that good, Christ-like life if we don’t know what God’s Word says or we choose to ignore it?

Will you die to yourself, adopt God’s desire and opinions as your own and live to please Jesus? Will you make Him attractive to unbelievers? God’s Word promises that you will be blessed if you will.