

Introduction

God is called many times in the Old Testament “Adonai” which means lord or master. In the New Testament, the similar Greek word “Kurios” is also ascribed to Jesus, furthering the notion that he and the Father are one. A master is to be served and obeyed – but how willing are we to submit to His authority?

Matthew 7:21-29

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!' 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." 28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at his teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Luke 6:46

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

Colossians 3:22-25

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

John 13:13-16

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Questions

1. Two groups are described in Matthew 7:21. How can we evaluate if we are like the ones that call him “Lord” vainly, or if we are a “wise” person?
2. In Luke 6:46, Jesus calls attention to our hypocrisy. What areas in your life do you find it is hardest to obey Him in?
3. According to the passages from Colossians and John, how can knowing God as Lord affect the way you deal with your work and with others?
4. In what ways can creating art be a service to God more than just entertainment or personal expression? What are some examples of art that have achieved this?

Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.