

“One Lord”
Ephesians 4:1-6
(Preached at Trinity, December 14, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As I've pointed out, one of the great themes of the Book of Ephesians is the unity of the body of Christ. In **Verses 2-6** Paul describes the substance of our unity. In these verses Paul sets forth the foundations of our unity using a seven-fold expression of the word "One."
 2. So far we've examined the first three of these. We are one body and one Spirit. And we share one glorious hope. But Paul doesn't stop here. He now adds to these three, "One Lord."
As I stated at the beginning of this series of sermons, Paul is describing our unity using Trinitarian categories.
The first three describe the work of the Holy Spirit:
"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling"
Now our attention is being directed to Christ:
"one Lord, one faith,"
 3. As the body of Christ we are united together by one Lord.
- I. First of all, Paul is describing the Person of our Unity – There is but one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- Romans 12:5** – “So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ”
- A. Christianity is a relationship with Christ – we are one with Him
 1. Our life is lived in union with Christ. Union implies communion.
Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."
 2. As Christians we are partakers of the life of Christ in every way – This union is a profound mystery
 - a. We are partakers of His divine nature
2 Peter 1:4 – “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
This doesn't mean we share His place in the Godhead. It means we are changed by virtue of our union with Him. Our life in Christ creates love, humility, patience, obedience.
 - b. We are partakers of His life, His death, His resurrection
We have been raised to a new life.

- B. As Christians the chief source of our unity with one another is our union with the Lord Jesus Christ
1. Christianity is about Christ – one Savior and one Lord. Christianity is Christ.
Acts 4:12 NAU - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
He is the one and only. Jesus said, "I am the way . . ."
There is no other way of salvation, no other hope.
 2. We are united together under this one Lord and King.
 - a. When the Corinthian Christians were divided over the leadership in the church Paul's answer was, – "Is Christ divided"
The answer sounds forth loudly. NO!
 - b. The word "One" in this passage expresses absolute nature of unity.
There is One God who exists in three persons.
 3. Our unity with one another is in Jesus Christ. This is the full sum of our relationship with one another.
 4. Jesus has united us together as His body – the church is the Body of Christ
Romans 12:5 – "so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."
1 Corinthians 12:13 – "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."
 5. We are a diverse people unique and distinct in many ways but we are one body in Christ. We are united to Christ, and we are united to one another.
- C. All of this, however, has already been described as we've considered one body and one Spirit.
1. Paul isn't saying here that we are united to one body or that we are saved by one Savior—both of which are true. Paul is saying more than this here. The question is, who is the Head of the body? Paul says there is "one Lord."
 2. The word is κύριος. It means "master, sovereign." It refers to high authority.
Paul is saying that Christianity is about loyalty to one master.
Christians are united together under one Lord and King.
We saw in **Chapter 1**
Ephesians 1:22 KJV - "And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,"
- II. What does it mean that we are united under one Lord?
- A. It speaks of the possession of Christ. Jesus has purchased the church – He bought her
1. He purchased us with His own blood
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NAU - "do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."
Hebrews 9:12 KJV - "by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*"

2. Having accomplished our redemption He has been exalted as our Mediator where He sits as Lord and King. This is at the heart of Philippians 2
Philippians 2:9-11 NAU - "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
 3. The church belongs to Christ. He is Lord. He declared:
Matthew 16:18 NAU - " upon this rock I will build My church"
 4. We read in **Revelation 1**
Revelation 1:16 NAU - " In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."
Revelation 1:20 NAU - "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."
- B. Every Christian has professed Jesus Christ as Lord
1. It is our high profession—it is essential to our salvation
Romans 10:9 NAU - " that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"
 2. Christian conversion brings a man to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is true of every believer. We are united under the Lordship of Christ. We serve Him as King. We recognize His dominion, we obey His laws.
 3. We are unwavering in this.
 This has often resulted in the martyrdom of God's people. During the first two centuries Caesar was lord. To profess any other as lord was treason. The profession *Καίσαρ κύριος* was demanded of all.
 A Christian has one Lord - *Κύριος Ἰησοῦς*
 4. Polycarp was the 86 year old bishop of Smyrna. He was known for his personal piety and had been bold in contending for the faith and encouraging holiness. He was arrested and charged with being a Christian. Surrounded by an angry mob, the Roman proconsul took pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp that if he simply proclaimed, "Caesar is Lord" and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue he would escape torture and death. Choosing to obey God rather than men Polycarp responded:
 "If you imagine that I will swear by Caesar, you do not know who I am. Let me tell you plainly, I am a Christian."
 "Eighty and six years I have served him, He has never done me wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Saviour? Bring forth what thou wilt." Soldiers then grabbed him to nail him to a stake, but Polycarp stopped them: "Leave me as I am. For he who grants me to endure the fire will enable me also to remain on the pyre unmoved, without the security you desire from nails." He prayed aloud, the fire was lit, and his flesh was consumed.

5. Jesus alone is Lord. "Jesus is Lord" is regarded as one of the oldest and most basic statements of Christian faith. One of the earliest Christian creeds. This binds us together in unity as we share this common profession.
Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth:
1 Corinthians 12:3 NAU - "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit."
6. After the ascension of Christ He returned to His throne of glory where He rules with authority and dominion. Every believer willingly and joyfully places himself under this authority or Lordship.
7. On the Day of Judgment every tongue will make this confession
Philippians 2:9 NAS - "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

III. To say that Jesus is Lord means three things:

- A. First, it means that Jesus is God.
In the Septuagint which is the Greek translation of the OT of which the Jewish people of the first century would have been very familiar used the word κύριος to translate the Hebrew word for Jehovah. This is why most English translations translate the Hebrew word for Jehovah LORD.
The NT writers knew this use of the word κύριος but did not hesitate to apply it to Jesus.
- B. Second, it means that Jesus is Savior.
The Lordship of Christ is testimony to His victory over the forces of evil. They are all under His feet.
Acts 2:34 NAS - "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."
 1. As Sovereign He has crushed the power of Satan
 2. Jesus Christ is Lord of all. His enemies are being made His footstool. He reigns with infinite power
- C. Third, it means Jesus Christ is Master & King
1 Timothy 6:15-16 NAU - "He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen."
 1. There have been some in our generation who suppose you can separate the Lordship of Christ from the work of Christ as Savior – that you can receive Him as Savior without receiving Him as Lord.

2. The Bible won't allow this. The Lordship of Christ cannot be separated from His saviorhood.
You cannot have genuine faith that is separated from submission to Christ.
3. The Christian is a servant of Christ - δούλος
Romans 1:1 – “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,” (δούλος)
Matthew 10:24 – “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.”
4. Many people want to cling to the hope of salvation without Lordship. Parents often hold to this hope for their children, spouses for their mates, and on and on – even when there is no submission to Christ. The truth is, no Lordship, no salvation.
5. Salvation is a narrow way. It is a new life, a new creation.
Jeremiah 31:33 – “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Conclusion:

1. Is Jesus Christ is your Savior? Then He is also your Lord. If He is your Lord then it will have a profound effect upon every aspect of your life.
If your life hasn't been changed then you have great reason to question your salvation.
2. The truth is every human being will eventually call Jesus Lord. Either you will embrace Him now joyfully calling Him your Lord, your King, your Master, or you will call Him Lord in judgment just before He casts you into hell.
3. Jesus is a glorious King. You cannot make Him Lord, He IS Lord. If you haven't submitted every aspect of your life to Christ pray that God might help you to repent of your rebellious heart that is raised against His Lordship.
4. God calls upon all men to repent and believe. That must be your chief interest.
*All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.*
5. The beauty of our salvation is we are united under this lordship. There is one Lord. But we find Him altogether lovely.
6. To those who are struggling hard with sin. Our Lord is a gracious Master. He binds up the bruised and broken.
Isaiah 42:3 NAU - "A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice."
Isaiah 61:1 NAU - "he Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners"
Matthew 11:28-30 NAU - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."