

## One Church: One Lord

### **Ephesians 4:1 through Ephesians 4:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

### **Series Introduction:**

What does God have in store for Greater Friendship? What does God want to accomplish through Greater Friendship?

I cannot tell you that I have a vision for us just yet. Right now, I do know is this: we won't get anywhere divided.

So this seven week series is designed to draw all of us in. We want to cross barriers. We want our hearts on one accord. We want to create singleness of purpose and unity of spirit. We must become One Church in Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 4 Paul tells the believers about seven things that are unique in the church. We will examine each one in hopes that they will turn all of our heads in the same direction and cause our eyes to all behold the same glory of God.

In the first week we began with One Church: One Body. In that message, we were encouraged to acknowledge the head. We were also encouraged to accept one another. Lastly, we were told to find our place in the body. Last week, we talked about One Church: One Spirit. In that message we learned some critical truths about the Holy Spirit. We talked about his purpose, his presence, and his power. This week, we will talk about One Church: One Hope.

### **Introduction**

*John Kenneth Galbraith, in his autobiography, A Life in Our Times, tells a story about his family's housekeeper, Emily Gloria Wilson. He says ...*

*It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all telephone calls while I had a nap. Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House.*

*"Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson."*

*"He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him."*

*"Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him."*

*"No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you." When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. "Tell that woman I want her here in the White House."*

Who is your boss? Who gives you directions? Is there someone who makes decisions for you? If so, how faithful are you to carry out their instructions? All of us have someone who is calling the shots. Honestly, some of us can't function without others giving us instructions. How do I know? It's because there are people whose lives are falling apart, and the only part of their lives that is stable is their job. They have a supervisor or a boss who tells them what to do, but outside of work, they are in disarray.

So really, who's in control of your life? Who are you accountable to? What is expected of you by the people who influence you the most? Whether we agree with it or not, none of us are completely and utterly free to do whatever we want. No matter how high our status or how wealthy we become, we will always have to answer to someone.

For the church, Jesus Christ is the shot caller. He is the Master. He is the Owner. He is the Authority. He is the Lord. There is One Lord. His lordship is not limited to spiritual or church related circumstances. Today, I'd like to talk about the Master, the Owner, and the Authority. It is my prayer that this message encourages and empowers every church member to say "No, I don't work for you. I work for Him."

## **The Master**

### **Matthew 7:21 through Matthew 7:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup>"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. <sup>22</sup>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?' <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

There is One Lord. The lordship of Jesus Christ entitles him to be the master of the church. As Master, Jesus has the right, the honor, and the privilege to make decisions for the body of Christ.

In this passage of scripture, Jesus is defining his lordship to the people. He says that his lordship isn't in words. Words alone do not make him the master over the church or over the lives of the people who make up the church.

Our ability to sound like Christians does not get us any brownie points in heaven. God has condemned people who honor him with their lips but their hearts are far from him. Even if we were able to speak with the tongues of men and angels but don't have the love of God abiding in us, we would be a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

Jesus is Lord because of what he has done more than what he said. If we are going to express how Jesus is Lord over our lives, the evidence of his lordship is not in what we say. It's in what we've done out of the relationship with him. Jesus came to do the will of the Father. Because he did the will of the Father, the Father is glorified in the Son. Now, because of Jesus, we are made sons and daughters which means, the Father must be glorified **in** us. Not just glorified by us.

What do I mean? If we come to church and do our duty for the week, God can be glorified by us in songs of praise and worship, but that doesn't necessarily mean he is glorified in us.

Let me give you an example.

#### *Award Shows*

*I have always been fascinated by what people say during music award shows. People have their names called and they come up all excited because they have won a Grammy or some other award. And many of them say "I just want to thank God for giving me this opportunity", or "I just want to thank God for blessing me with this award." That's great. The people at least stopped and acknowledged God for his grace toward them. God was glorified by them.*

*But, they make a CD with Parental Advisory for explicit lyrics. They curse out everyone under the sun on every song. They talk about their sinful sex lives and their crimes, and their drug abuse, and their less than godly lifestyles. And the truth is God may have been glorified by them, but he wasn't glorified **in** them.*

Jesus said heaven is not reserved for people who call me Lord, but for those who do the will of the Father. We have people in the church who think they are on the Grammys. Jesus is Lord of our lives but we are still lying on people. We love the Lord, but we hate the people next to us. The Lord has really blessed us, but we don't return to give thanks. The Lord is head of our lives, but we won't follow his lead.

How long are you going to hold that grudge? He won't be glorified in you until what's in you gets in line with his will.

How long are you going to live together before you get married?

If he's Lord ...

How many more times are you going to steal from people?

How long is your life going to be ruled by addiction before you get some help?

If he's Lord ...

When are you going to put your pride aside and humble yourself?

When are you going to renounce your homosexuality?

When are you going to be as devoted to the church as you are to your social organization?

In this passage, Jesus says depart from me you who work iniquity or who practice lawlessness. What he means more perfectly here is these are people who are not subject to the rules. They are those who are not under the law. They are not acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Some of us have this idea that we are serving the Lord when we do things at church. The truth is we are serving him when he commands us to bear fruit. We are serving him when he commands us to live holy. We are serving him when our lives, our conversations, our actions, and our motives, bring glory to the Father.

Saying that Jesus is Lord is not enough. The book says, there will come a day when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the praise of God the Father. On that day it's too late.

**The Owner** – possessor, holder, he holds title.

### **Genesis 14:13 through Genesis 14:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup>Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. <sup>14</sup>Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

In Bible times there was more than one way to become a servant. Not only were there several ways a person could become a servant, but for Jews, there were laws given by

God to explain how a person could be set free from service. These same laws also dictated how a servant was to be treated.

A person could be a prisoner of war in another country and made into a slave or servant. A person could be sold to traders like Joseph was. A person could become a servant because of the debt they owed to another person. Some people chose service to others as a way of life. Then, there are also those who are born servants.

We just read that Abram had 318 trained servants that were born in his house. From the day they were born, Abram owned them. He owned their parents and therefore he owned them. Their lives were tied to Abram's life. If Abram was blessed, they were blessed. If Abram went to fight, they went to fight. If Abram suffered, they suffered. These servants and everything about their lives belonged to Abram.

There is another owner today who has more slaves and servants than any other in history. He is called Satan. Once he convinced Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, every person in the world was born in sin. Everyone was a slave to sin.

Just like Abram's servants, any person who is a slave to sin has the same fate as their master. Since Satan is going to be defeated, they are going to be defeated. Since Satan is going to be judged, they are going to be judged. Since Satan is going to be cast into the lake of fire, they are going to be cast into the lake of fire.

Now, here is the deal. Imagine that we are all standing up in the local market and Satan has us up for sale. Imagine that everyone you know is standing with you and are going to be sold into bondage to one sin or another.

Some will be bound by alcoholism. Some will be bound in immorality. Some will be bound in gossip. Some will be bound in hate and murder. Some will be bound in covetousness. We may not all be bound in the same sins, but none of us are free.

All of a sudden, along comes Jesus and he requests to redeem all of us from slavery. He is willing to pay the price to free us from bondage. The price was death on the cross. With his blood, Jesus purchased us out of the market and brought us into his household. Because of his sacrifice, we belong to him and do his will.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19 through 1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

The blood of Jesus has set us free from a wicked owner. His blood has made us free to be blessed by God. His blood has made us free from the bondage of sin in this life. We were bought with a price so high that we could never redeem ourselves.

There is One Church and in the church there is One Lord and his name is Jesus.

In the King James Version of the Bible, Jesus is not referred to as “The Lord Jesus” until after he is resurrected. The first time that phrase shows up is in Luke 24:3. During Jesus ministry he was referred to as Lord by many people. Calling a person Lord was common if they held a position over you.

But after Jesus purchased the church with his own blood, throughout the remainder of the New Testament, he is referred to as “The Lord Jesus”.

The church belongs to Jesus Christ. He owns the time we have been given. He owns the substance that we possess. He has exclusive rights to all of our praise and worship. He owns the talents and gifts that have been given to us. He owns the plans for our future. He alone answers prayer and he alone has power to save. Jesus is Lord and owner of everyone who is redeemed. He is the ruler of our lives. He is the head of the church. He is the sole possessor of everything that pertains to us.

**The Authority** – power, right, ability, say-so, clout

**Matthew 8:5 through Matthew 8:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup>Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup>saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

<sup>7</sup>And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

<sup>8</sup>The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

**Matthew 8:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

The Centurion gives us a lesson on authority. He tells Jesus, he has men under him whom he can command and they do whatever he says. If he tells them to go, they go.

If he tells them to come, they come. That's how authority works. But this authority that Jesus has is even greater. Jesus doesn't just have the authority to command one or two people. He has supreme authority over the entire church. Jesus has authority that is so potent, he can command things in nature, and things in the spirit and they must obey him. Because he is Lord, Jesus doesn't have to go get permission to be in charge.

Jesus can command sickness to leave the Centurion's servant. He can command Lazarus to come forth from his grave. He can command a paralyzed man to take up his bed and go home. He can command the wind and the waves to be still. So the authority of Jesus is greater than the authority of the world. The benefit to us is that he gives us authority to do his will in the world. We are authorized to represent Jesus in every place we go.

If you are a man in Jesus Christ, you are authorized to lead your family. You are authorized and commanded to love your spouse and raise your children. You are authorized to use whatever means God has given you to provide for your family. You are authorized to lead other men to the love of Jesus Christ.

If you are a woman in Christ, you are authorized to have power in virtue. You are authorized to and commanded to submit to your husband. Your power and authority are found in your ability to be his helper. You have no power or authority to be the head. Even if you are a single parent, you are still not the head. Jesus is the head. You are authorized to nurture and develop your children. You are authorized to care for your family.

If you are one of our elders in the church, you are authorized to teach and share wisdom with others. You are empowered to be an example to those who are coming behind you. You have no power when you step outside of what God has for you. Our youth are empowered by God to honor their parents. They are empowered by God to respect their elders. They are authorized to represent Christ in the classroom. They are commanded to enjoy their youth but to do so in the fear of the Lord.

Because Jesus is Lord over the church, we are to do everything, in every area of life, as if we are doing those things for the Lord and not men.

I don't work for you. I work for the Lord. I don't work for trouble. Trouble doesn't have authority over me. I work for Lord. I don't work for addiction. It has no authority over me. Sickness can't tell me what to do. I'm going on in Jesus' name. I've been bought with a high price.