

## Authority and Lordship of Christ

**Purpose:** This session will help you understand the authority and the lordship of Christ in life and ministry.

**Objectives:** This session will help you to:

1. Understand the meaning of the authority and Lordship of Christ.
2. Respond to the authority and Lordship of Christ in your life and ministry.

**Key Verse:** Romans 12:1-2

### I. Introduction

Picture in your mind a policeman directing traffic. The policeman does not have the physical strength to stop cars. But he does have the authority of the state behind him so that he can direct traffic. The power of the state is what gives him his authority.

In this session we'll be looking at the authority and Lordship of Christ. We will also be looking at how this influences our lives. First we need to look at the Lordship of Christ.

### II. The Lordship of Christ

A. Christ is the Creator, Sustainer and Reason for Creation.

Read Colossians 1:15-20, Ephesians 1:19-23 and Philippians 2:8-11. List what the Lordship of Christ entails.

*(Divide into small groups of 3 or 4 and have them discuss what the Lordship of Christ entails. Give about 5 minutes for this.)*

B. The Lordship of Christ and Us

Possibly the best-known passage referring to the Lordship of Christ in our life is Romans 12:1 & 2.

Although the word Lordship is not written in this passage, the subject is intended. In Old Testament times, what was intended when you heard that something was to be sacrificed? *The animal was to be killed.* Did the animal have a choice? Of course not. But what about a living sacrifice? Yes, it does have a choice. We can respond positively or negatively to the Lordship of Christ. How does a living sacrifice respond to the Lordship of Christ? The person responds like this: "Lord, you can do to me what you want. I am your instrument. I am willing to suffer in order for you to change me. Whatever is wrong inside of me, change that so that I become more like you." As a result the person will say, "Lord, I will go where

you want me to go. I will do what you want me to do. I will be what you want me to be.”  
Once the person has made that commitment, he is ready to understand and apply the authority of Christ in his life and ministry.

### III. The Authority of Christ

- A. What is authority? Vine’s Expository Dictionary states that authority is “the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others.”
- B. How did Christ get his authority? Christ received his authority from the Father. He always said that He came to do the will of the Father. Read Matthew 28:18. It reads: “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.’”
- C. Christ has delegated his authority to us. Because of being “in Christ” we are heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). As the policeman acts in the name (authority) of the state, so we can act in the name (authority) of Christ (Acts 3:6; Acts 16:16-18). The power of God is behind us. Praise God that this is true.

A number of years ago Josh McDowell was at a meeting attended by many non-believers. There was a young man who wanted to disrupt the meeting and was doing a good job of it. He had a very noisy car. He would stop just outside the meeting, rev up his motor and take off as fast as he could, squealing the tires as he went. Josh decided that this shouldn’t go on like this. He called another staff member over and they prayed. They prayed using the authority of the believer in this situation that the young man would stop trying to break up the meeting. What happened next was incredible. The young man stopped another time and began to do the same thing. This time as he popped the clutch there was a terrible noise and then there was a silence. He blew his engine.

### IV. Personal Response

Although Christ had the authority over all things here upon this earth, He never forced His will upon them. He was humble in spirit. We have an assigned authority. We need to remember that this is true and use it in situations where the Gospel is being hindered.

Think of a situation in your life or that of someone you know in which you exercised the authority God has given you. Be sure to give God thanks.