

# **“SCRIPTURALLY IDENTIFYING THE CHURCH’S LORD”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Amidst all the religious confusion in the world today among some 35,000 distinctly separate denominations, we recently studied HOW we can “scripturally identify the **Lord’s** church.” We pointed out that we can identify it by its **seed**, the word of God. From that, we pointed out that the teaching of the seed shows that the Lord only built ONE CHURCH, which would last till the end of the world, and that it is to use no other “seed” or doctrine than the word of God—thus avoiding religious confusion and division.

We also pointed out that the Lord’s church today must engage in the **same worship** as did the first century church, by (1) Preaching the Word of God only, (2) Free-will offering of financial support for work of the church, (3) Observing the Lord’s Supper every Sunday, (4) Prayers, and (5) Singing of hymns of praise to God. Anything more or less than these constitutes “vain” worship. Matt. 15:9

We also observed that the Lord’s church HAD **no one official name or title**, for it was known as “the church,” “the church of Christ,” “the church of God,” or “the church of the Lord.” Then, it’s members wore the name **Christian**, with no other name to identify it’s members, **AS** are being used among those in modern day denominations.

NOW, **this lesson** will be a **reversible study**, as we look at “Scripturally identifying the Church’s Lord”, instead of “Scripturally identifying the Lord’s church.” We are simply switching places with the words “church” and “Lord.” HERE WE GO.

## **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, the church’s LORD is the one who is CALLED “Lord.”**

A. The Bible recognizes that there ARE many “lords” in the world, and none of them that are not named in the New Testament, OR all of them together, make up the Lord of church. Cf 1 Cor. 8:6

B. Jesus Christ is the only ONE Lord of the church revealed in the New Testament.

1. Peter established that in his sermon on Pentecost day.
2. He stated that the LORD of the church is the one who was “crucified,” “raised from the dead,” and “ascended into heaven,” where THERE he was **“made” LORD AND CHRIST.** Acts 2:36; cf Dan. 7:13-14
3. None other of the “lords many” (or many lords) fit this identification.

## **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the church’s LORD must be named “Jesus”.**

A. Peter used the name “Jesus” three times IN his sermon to identify him who was made Lord, and He must not be confused with any OTHER “lord” than Him.

B. There is more than one “Jesus” mentioned in the New Testament.

1. One is the one who was crucified, and the other is “Jesus Justis.” Col. 4:11
2. The name “Jesus” was given to the son of Mary when he was born. Matt. 1:21, 25
3. Several times the name “Jesus” is associated with “Lord”--making it the “Lord Jesus,” or “Jesus is Lord.”
4. The “Lord Jesus” is the One who was crucified and raised from the dead. Acts 4:10, 33

## **III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the church’s LORD is also called “Christ”.**

A. Peter stated that God has made Jesus both “Lord” and **CHRIST.** Acts 2:36

1. The word “Christ” simply means “anointed” or “Messiah.”
2. It is used many many times in scripture, in association with the person of Jesus, who is the Christ, the head of the church. Eph. 5:23

B. There is reference to some who might claim to have seen “Christ”, when He was not there. Matt. 24:24

**IV. 4<sup>th</sup>, the church's LORD is the one who is associated with the words LORD, JESUS, and CHRIST, or a combination of either 2 or all of these words.**

**V. 5<sup>th</sup>, the church's LORD the one who is also the SON OF GOD.**

A. Jesus had many "father—Son" relationships while upon earth.

1. He was the son of Mary, as well as the legal son of Joseph. Luke 1:31; 3:23; Matt. 1:16
2. Jesus was also called the Son of David, in that He was of the lineage of David. Matt. 22:42; Rom. 1:3
3. Jesus is also called "the Son of man" in scripture.
  - a. He referred to Himself AS "the Son of man", some 74 times in the scripture.
  - b. Only one time does anyone else call Him the "Son of Man," and that was Stephen after his sermon as he viewed the son of man at the right hand of God. Acts 7:56

B. Primarily, Jesus was and is the **Son of God**. Matt. 16:16; Acts 8:37

**VI. 6<sup>th</sup>, the church's LORD is the KING and HIGH PRIEST of God's kingdom.**

A. Since the church is the kingdom of God's people, to be HEAD of the church is to be KING of the kingdom.

1. The kingdom is the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Christ. Col. 1:13
2. The One who is KING is also a HIGH PRIEST. Zech. 6:12, 13; Psa. 110:1-4; Luke 1:30, 33; Heb. 8:1-3

B. Since Jesus is LORD, he is the ruler, or KING. 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15

**VII. 7<sup>th</sup>, and finally, the church's LORD is the SAVIOR OF THE CHURCH.** Eph. 5:23

**CONCLUSION**

I. These 7 ways of identifying only ONE Being as the Lord of the church, it behooves us to be obedient to Him to be blessed for time and eternity. Heb. 5:8-9

II. If you are not an obedient child of God, you need to become one by confessing faith in Jesus AS God's Son, repenting of all sins and be buried and united with Him in baptism. Gal. 3:26-27

Don Tarbet