

The Apostles' Creed

Our Lord

February 12, 2023—Sermon Discussion Guide

If you have watched TV shows like *Downton Abbey* or read books like *Pride and Prejudice*, you would have an understanding of what is meant when a person is addressed as “my lord.” You get that one person is deferring to another because of his station, his status. The “lord” is thought of as superior to others because of his lineage, his powers, his title.

When we call Jesus “our Lord,” we are declaring that his lineage is superior to ours. He is in a position of power over us. We are admitting that Jesus is worthy of respect. He is THE son of God.



Lord

In the Bible, the Greek word for Lord is *kurios*. It means a person who is supreme in authority, the controller, God, lord, or master. In the New Testament, *kurios* is used most often for Jesus.

In Hebrew the word for Lord can be *Jehovah (Yahweh)*, or *Adonay*, or *adon (adown)*. *Jehovah/Yahweh* is the Jewish national name of God. It means self-existent or eternal. *Adon* is the root word for *Adonay (Adoni)*. *Adon* means sovereign or controller like the Greek, as well as master, lord, and owner. When *Adonay* is used it is the emphatic form of *adon*. It is the proper name of God and would be translated as THE Lord. In the Old Testament, these words are used for God.

- What is the difference between an earthly lord and a heavenly Lord?
- What does calling Jesus “my Lord” mean to you?
- Think about the translation of both *kurios* (Gr.) and *adon* (Heb.) as controller. How does declaring Jesus your controller make you feel? Explain.

Personal study: If you were to explain to a non-believer why Jesus is your Lord, what would you tell them?

Becoming Lord

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

- How is Jesus' ascension to Lord so different from the way an earthly Lord acquires his title?
- In these verses it talks of how Jesus went from being seen as a poor carpenter's son to being acknowledged as Lord. What did Jesus do that makes him worthy in your eyes? What does bowing before him on your knees signify for you?
- What example does Jesus set for us as our Lord? What is your response to having Jesus as your Lord?

Personal study: Philippians 2:5 says we should "have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." What does that statement mean to you personally? What are the characteristics of Christ's mindset that are emphasized throughout the New Testament as well as in these verses?

My take away: This week, take the time to fall to your knees and bow before your Lord, Jesus, in prayer. Praise Him for all the qualities that make him worthy of your worship. Ask Him to transform you into the person you were created to be—a person in His image.