

2

session 2

THE COST OF OWNERSHIP

“Before you can understand love, you must understand lordship. Before you decide who you will love, you must decide who is your Lord.”

-CLAYTON KING

2

session 2: THE COST OF OWNERSHIP

As we learned in the first session, we are all part of God's redemptive story. We are being remade as we experience redemption through His Son. In this session, we will discover that the main character in God's story is His Son, Jesus. Because of who Jesus is, we should submit to His lordship over our lives and recognize that He knows best when it comes to issues of sex and purity.

video guide:

Every single important thing in your life revolves around one issue, and that is the issue of _____.

Whoever has the title of _____ in your life is the ultimate ruler and calls all the shots.

FOLLOW HIS LORDSHIP:

When Jesus is Lord, you recognize the _____ He made when He died in your place to reconcile you to God.

When Jesus is Lord, you want to honor His _____ in your relationships and live by His _____ that govern your body and sexual desires.

When you are lord, you're _____ primarily by whatever it is that you _____ at any given moment.

If you are the lord of your life, then you are the ultimate _____ and you become a _____ unto yourself.

RECOGNIZE THAT HE KNOWS BEST WHEN IT COMES TO SEX AND PURITY:

Because He _____ about you and because He _____ best (and can see the consequences of your sins and bad decisions), He _____ you to give control of your life to Him.

Before you can understand _____, you must understand _____.

Before you decide who you will _____, you must decide who is your _____.

video feedback:

- + Summarize what it means for Jesus to be Lord over your life. What are the implications in the areas of romance and intimacy?
- + What signs might indicate that you are lord over your life? What signs might indicate that Jesus is Lord over your life?
- + Why is trying to be lord over your life detrimental to your health? Why is it actually good and joyful to have Jesus be your Lord?
- + How was C.S. Lewis' story about children playing near the edge of the cliff helpful in thinking about how God relates to His children? Do you believe that God is working for your good and joy? Why or why not?

Develop and post a personal tweet or Facebook status related to this session using the hashtag **#trueloveproject**

part 1: LORDSHIP REQUIRED

What does the concept of lordship mean to you? Start by imagining someone that is more powerful than the president, more influential than a prime minister, and more prominent than a king or queen—but don't stop there. Now imagine this power on a universal scale that includes our world plus all other planets, solar systems, universes—the entirety of the infinite cosmos! You've now begun to get a glimpse into the concept of lordship.

- + What are some additional examples that illustrate the concept of lordship?

After speaking at a public school assembly years ago, a very upset 16-year-old girl approached me. She said, “Who do you think you are? You can't tell me who I can sleep with or what I can do with my boyfriend, or my girlfriend, or even a perfect stranger I meet at a party. It's my body and I will do what I want with it!”

- + If Jesus is Lord over all things, how does that change the way we view our bodies? How does 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 help answer this?
- + When Jesus is your Savior, He is also the Lord of your life. What does Romans 10:9 have to say about the connection between lordship and personal salvation?
- + If Jesus is our Lord, why are we not free to enjoy sex apart from His design?
- + Why would Jesus' lordship in our lives lead to greater fulfillment in the areas of romance and intimacy?

The job of ruler, boss, and master needs to be filled by someone who is smart and experienced enough to see things that you don't see and to know things that you couldn't possibly know. You need a boss that can handle the job.

part 2: THE EXTENT OF LORDSHIP

When you declare Jesus to be Lord of your life, He then gets to call all the shots.

+ How does Jesus call the shots in the following areas of your life?

Who you date:

What you watch on TV/Internet:

What you desire:

What you fantasize about:

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.
He is also the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have first place in everything.
For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,
and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself
by making peace through the blood of His cross,—
whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

(COL. 1:15-20)

+ How does this passage relate to the lordship of Christ over all things, including sexual intimacy?

Settling the issue of lordship is foundational to your life, not only for the pursuit of purity, but also in every decision you will make. In fact, it is ultimately an issue about salvation. Either you submit to the loving ownership of Jesus over your life, or you remain a slave to yourself and the sinful impulses of your heart.

part 3: A JEALOUS LORDSHIP

Do you think jealousy is a bad thing? My wife and I met in our mid-twenties, and we had both dated other people. As a matter of fact, when we met, I had just ended a four-year relationship and she had just broken off an engagement. This was a challenge for us both. She wondered if I still had feelings for my ex, and I wondered how big the diamond ring was that she gave back to her ex-fiancé.

Our love for each other generated jealousy. I didn't want her to talk to her ex-fiancé. I didn't even want her to think about him. I wanted all of her affection and attention.

+ How can jealousy in a relationship be a good thing? When does it become bad?

Read Exodus 20:4-6. What can you learn about God's jealousy from this story? The first one is provided as an example for you to get started.

- 1) He is jealous of the love you have for anyone or anything else that replaces your love for Him as Lord.
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

God has the right to be jealous for the affections of His creation. After all, He is the most supreme being in all the universe and therefore deserves that attention. Who or what is receiving the greatest praise in our lives? Are we, in some sense, cheating on God? Are we committing spiritual adultery when we love other parts of creation more than the Creator? When we realize that God is far better than anything else, we echo the words of the apostle Paul when he said, "But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ" (Phil. 3:7-8).

part 4: LORDSHIP IS FOUNDATIONAL

- + When it comes to building a house, what are the most important things to get right?
- + Why is the foundation of a house so important? If the foundation isn't secure, how will the rest of the house suffer?
- + **Read Mathew 7:24-27.** Why is it so important that we build our lives on a secure foundation?

The lordship of Christ is the foundation for *The True Love Project*. It's an issue of ownership. Either Jesus is Lord or you are lord. You're not big enough, strong enough, or smart enough to be Lord, but Jesus is.

- + How has this lesson changed your views on sexuality and purity?

GROUP DISCUSSION

session 2: THE COST OF OWNERSHIP

- + Notes on interview with Perry Noble:

CONSIDER THIS

- + What is something you have learned about yourself during this session?
- + How would you respond to someone who said that it is possible to have Jesus as Savior but not as Lord?
- + Why does the issue of lordship affect so many aspects of your life? What does life look like if you are lord? What does life look like if Jesus is Lord?

HIGHLIGHTS

From Clayton's teaching, your personal reflection, and the interview, what impacted you from this session?

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ACTION POINTS

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