

## God's Purpose for Us

Rom 14:7-13<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. <sup>11</sup> For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

There is a subtle and interesting change here in Paul's instruction. I like the way Dr. John Piper describes what Paul does here, he writes, "Paul does something very characteristic he makes a theological mountain out of an ethical molehill."

That is Paul moves from things like eating and drinking to living and observing special days to this exciting and climactic statement, "None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living."

So why does Paul go from such trivial matters as food, drink and holy days to the life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ? I think the reason is that Paul wants us to understand that what is important in our lives is not things such as taste not, touch not and handle not, but a response of love to Him who has provided for us this great salvation. He wants us to understand that the importance of our service is not to make ourselves important or our deeds to be of any value, but to realize that all of our service to Jesus Christ is to be in response to His great love for us. The most significant element of our Christian walk is to acknowledge Jesus as the Sovereign Lord and that we are but his redeemed servants. The whole of our Christian walk is to be about Christ and not about ourselves.

That is, he wants us to know who God intends us to be, what the divine purpose for our lives is. He wants to establish a harmony between what we are in our heart because of our fallen nature and what God created us to be. From this passage we shall learn the following: 1. Man was created to acknowledge the lordship of Christ. 2. This is why Christ came that He might restore this great purpose for living. 3. Man will be judged according to His response to Christ.

A. Man was created to acknowledge the lordship of Christ. - *For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

1. In the Garden I do not believe that it was the fruit itself that was sinful, I think rather it was the act of disobedience that was sinful.

Gen 3:11 *Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

2. Lordship implies possession. He owns us. - *"You were bought with a price," (1 Cor. 6:20)*
3. Submission to God implies an entire giving up of our understanding, will, and affections to him. -  
**Whether we live or die we are the Lords.**
  - a. We must acknowledge His right and sovereignty over us.
  - b. We must acknowledge His righteousness and wisdom.
  - c. Therefore it follows that we must have a sense of His love and care in all things. (Rom 8:28)
  - d. It is a submission to His mind and will **as revealed** to us **in His written Word**.

B. This is why Christ came that He might restore this great purpose for living. - *For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1. Christ came to purchase us out of slavery to the lordship of sin and bring us over as servants under the lordship of Christ.
2. Paul established this in Chapter 6

Rom 6:1-3 *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*

Rom 6:10-11 *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3. Rather we have been purchase to serve Him in loving obedience to His law written in our hearts. - 1 Cor 6:20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*
4. We are no longer under the touch not, taste not mentality of the Pharisees.

*1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.*

- a. We have been liberated in Christ.
- b. This is not a liberty to sin, but it is a liberty from the rules and commandments of men
5. Therefore quit judging your brother. - Therefore *why do you judge your brother?*
  - a. Now we may well have to deal with a brother that is living in sin. - *Prov 27:6 -Faithful are the wounds of a friend*
  - b. But we are not bound by, nor are we to bind others with the commandments of men.
  - c. No one stood any stronger against such mentality than our Lord. (cf. Matt 23:1-5; 15:9)
6. This is neither an excuse for sin nor a permission to sin for we will stand before Christ on that great day of judgment.
  - a. Indeed all men will stand before God
  - b. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess
  - c. Therefore let us leave judgment to God.
  - d. Remember Christ did not come to condemn but to redeem.

*John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- e. Indeed the best way to witness and be a witness is to let others know you are a sinner that has been saved by grace alone.
- f. Again this is not to excuse men in their sin; indeed we must lead men to repentance.
- g. But we must let them know why Christ came into this world.
- h. And we must warn them that they will stand before God some day.

CONCLUSION: <sup>13</sup> *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

We do this by submitting to God's Law.

By teaching only God's Word.

Finally in summing it up - We are Christ's possession and that is a privilege beyond ability to express it in words.

We thus conclude then, that the lordship of Christ over our lives implies the following:

He **possesses** us, in that He has purchased us with His own precious blood.

In love He has **provides** all our needs both in time and eternity.

Therefore we have but one purpose and that is **please him** and show honor to His name.

Because “. . . whether we live or die, we are the Lord's”.