

Heidelberg Catechism 34 – Why is Jesus your Lord?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus is your **Friend**. He is your **Father**. He is your **Provider**. He is your **Brother**. He is your **LORD** –Jehovah- Covenant God (uppercase letters).

He is also your Lord – Supreme Master – a different word from LORD.

“Lord,” is the Greek word “kurios.” It comes from the word “kuros” which means supremacy. (You must might be curious about “kurios.” It is a wonderful word with an important meaning) The most common definition of Lord is: **“He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding.”**

Today you will hear that Jesus is your “kurios.”

Our headings are:

Jesus your Lord **has Redeemed you**

Jesus your Lord **has Restored you**

Jesus your Lord, **your Response to him**

Our goals are: That **understanding the hopelessness and helplessness of your prior condition, and seeing the price of your freedom from that condition, that you will serve the Lord with passion and dedication, bringing glory to him.**

34 Q. WHY DO YOU CALL HIM “OUR LORD”?

A. Because—not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood— he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.

Jesus you Lord has Redeemed you

1. The Bible used the illustration of how a slave was set free to teach how Jesus frees those who are trapped in spiritual slavery.

2. So how were human slaves set free?

Historically, a man could buy a slave out of slavery. It is important to remember that most of those slaves were not kept in slavery because their owners were racist. Most people were kept in slavery because it was financially profitable.

So when another rich person offered to pay a large amount of money to a master for a slave to go free, the owner usually obliged. Sometimes a slave who inherited a large amount of money could buy his freedom.

Christians still redeem slaves today and pay about \$2700.USD to Arabs to release young African children, mostly girls, who were kidnapped and sold to them as slaves. Unfortunately, the young girls' lives of misery are replaced by other lives of misery - poverty, sickness, and even death as they return home. **They are redeemed from slavery, yes, but not much more.**

Human slavery illustrated the hopelessness and the desperation of the person who is a spiritual slave and the wonder of redemption and the joy it brings.

3. And yet, the comparative illustration between human and spiritual slavery is not altogether the same.

a. Your redemption from slavery to sin was not paid for by money as no amount of money would pay off your debt.

b. The price of your freedom had to be paid, not to the one who had you enslaved, but to the one who freed you - God the Father. God determined what the price would be: The Devil had to be destroyed and all your sins had to be atoned for.

c. The price of your freedom was a price 100% beyond your ability to pay. You didn't have an inheritance to use.

d. You were marauders with your fellow slaves on your way to hell and did not even realize you were in deep slavery – a slavery from which there was no one to rescue you. You were waiting for the culmination of that sin in the miseries of hell.

4. You were redeemed when Jesus paid the full price of your freedom, not partial price, and not a down payment.

(Think what it is like burning your mortgage papers when your house is paid for!)

Your redemption price was much greater-considering all your sins on sins and the compounded interest of your sins – how much you owed Jehovah. No good works, no money would suffice, and no saints praying on your behalf merited anything.

1Peter 1:18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold**, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

5. With the price paid in full, Jews and Gentiles are now free from that hellish spiritual bondage. (Jews were in slavery too!)

God was 100% satisfied with the substitutionary price. **He could not ask for more.**

God would have erred if he did. Christ's blood 100% satisfied God's anger. You are debt free. **Praise your "kurios."**

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and **release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

The full price of your freedom will be confirmed in the future.

1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 **who gave Himself a ransom for all,** to be testified **in due time,**

6. The converse is true: Those who reject God's salvation from "kurios" will die in their sins and go to hell.

7. But why did your "kurios" have to redeem you with his blood?

Why couldn't Jesus teach you and set a good example for you and then go back to heaven? Why couldn't he accept your charity to the poor as a substitute for sins as Muslims do...or accept pilgrimages to holy sites?

Answer: Since God is the one who is offended by sin, he is the one who determines how it is atoned for. **He said no one could approach him without blood and only the blood of your "kurios" would do.**

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

If Jesus did not ransom you with his blood no one else would and no one else could ransom you. You were in the Devil's lap, but Jesus satisfied the Father's anger. When his anger was satisfied, God took you from the Devil's lap and

established you as his son with a new name, a new record, and a new life.

Jesus Your Lord has Restored you

1. Jesus restored you to new life, and secured you for all eternity-an eternity filled with great blessings.

One of the problems of the ending of slavery in the US abruptly was the resulting chaos that it brought. There was not a good enough plan of what to do with many people suddenly not having a job, a place to live, money to build a house, or even having the experience to order their lives. It was cruel to set slaves free that way. There was no book that gave directions of how to live as a freed slave. Many slaves could not even read. They had no money to travel. So some slaves continued to work for their former masters. Others chose robbery.

In the West Indies, as slavery was about to be abolished, the British planned.

They established an order where domestic and field slaves would be given more and more freedom and pay...and then freed after a period of 2-4 years. It was better.

2. When you were set free from sin you had no direction either, but Christ did not leave you there.

Jesus is your prophet, priest, and king. He taught you truth. He gave you God's Word. He prays for you as a Christian—every single day, even after sacrificing himself for your freedom. He protects you and destroys your enemies. He then equips you with everything you need (as prophet, priests, and king under him) to live worthy lives. You have his Holy Spirit. You have his church. You have elders. You have the sacraments. You have discipline.

3. What then is your response to your restoration by Jesus?

Live your life for the glory of him who rescued you from darkness and established you in his light.

1Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus your Lord, your Response to him

1. What do you give a man who has given you a job, a life, safety, a family, and riches beyond measure?

You'll say: "I will give that man my life." Now what will you give Christ who gave you infinitely more?

a. You will worship him in spirit and in truth. Law 1-4 And worship him in the right way. Right? So when was the last time your worshipped God in your home? Worshiping God makes him happy.

b. You will work for him with all the energies and wisdom he gave you. Law 5-10

John 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, **you will abide in My love,** just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 12 "This is My commandment, **that you love one another** as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 "You are My friends if you **do whatever I command you.**

Is your life a life of service...a service to God and to mankind? **God is pleased with good service.**

c. You would introduce others to your "kurios" so they could ask him to free them!

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So, when was the last time you invited someone to worship? When was the last time you told someone about Jesus? God is glorified when a sinner repents!

Keep in mind Jesus needs nothing from you! What would you give Jesus who doesn't need anything from you? He is sufficient in himself. This is to guard your mind in thinking you are doing the Lord a favor when you worship him. He is doing you a favor by letting you worship him.

2. Ask Jesus for things you desire and ask him for things you need to do the work he has called you to do.

3. One last thing: See the personal nature of our Catechism: Jesus Christ is our Lord.

He is your personal Savior and he is your loving Lord. Look at how he describes your relationship to him, even as he is your Lord and why you should not hesitate to talk to him.

John 14:15 "**No longer do I call you servants,** for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends,** for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain..."

The Lord makes it easy for you to serve him as your Lord. He treats you as a friend – not as a slave.

Conclusion:

You were miserable wretches without any hope for the future, yet Jesus loved you. He humbled himself to come from heaven to suffer the humiliating death on the cross, was pierced, beaten, and then put into the ground for you. By doing this he redeemed you from sin and death. You were then restored to a right relationship with God so that you are able to serve him in spirit and in truth. You can give him things for which he asks (work and worship) and you can do it out of love – which yet brings more rewards.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you show love back to God for his great redemption of a great wretch like you?

Are you willing to face hardships for Christ? Would you quit a bad job to serve God? Would you be willing to suffer persecution? Would you be willing to break off a bad relationship to honor your Lord? Are you willing to come to worship...even when you don't feel like it? What if you could be arrested for coming to church, would you still come?

2. In obedience to Christ, do you work for the good of your neighbors...sharing with them the good news of Jesus? Do you reflect Christ by how you live in front of your neighbors...by how you drive...how you talk? All of this is part of how you show Christ to the world. He is your "kurios." Act to please your Redeemer.

Finally, if Jesus is not your Lord you will die and go to hell, where you will pay for your sins. While you have life, there is hope. Call on God today and say: Lord, I want you to count your Son's death as mine so I don't have to spend eternity in hell. **I want to spend the rest of my days in worshipping and working for you** in this world and then praise you forever in heaven.