

Heidelberg Catechism 34 – Why Do We Call Jesus “Lord?”

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus has different aspects of his relationship with you. Jesus is your Friend. He is your Father. He is your Provider – as the True Vine 真葡萄树. He is your brother. He is your LORD – Jehovah- your Covenant God (as is used in the Old Testament and printed in uppercase letters. He is also your Lord – your Supreme Master.

The word “Lord” is the Greek word “kurios.” It comes from the word “kuros” which means supremacy. “Kurios” might also be translated “master” if the context allows it. 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 from God how and why Jesus is your Lord and you will see what that relationship entails.

Our headings are: Jesus Christ is your Lord because **he has Redeemed you.** Jesus Christ is your Lord because he **has Restored you,** and **Jesus Christ is your Lord, You Respond to him.**

Our goals are: That **grasping the hopelessness and helplessness of your condition, and seeing the price of your freedom from that condition, that you will serve the Lord with passion and dedication and bring much 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 权势 of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.**

Jesus Christ is Lord because he has Redeemed you

1. Throughout the history of the world a man could buy another man out of slavery. Most people did not keep slaves just because they hated those of other races. **Most people kept slaves because it was financially profitable.** So when one rich person offered to pay a large amount of money to a master for a slave, that slave was set free. Or if the slave himself inherited a large amount of money he could buy his freedom. Redeeming slaves **is still done today by the Christians who pay Arabs to release** young African children, mostly girls, who were kidnapped and sold to them as slaves. The last time I heard about this, it cost about \$2,700.00, to free a slave from the Arabs. For the Arabs, that is a large amount of money. Sadly, the young girls’ lives of misery are replaced by other lives of misery, in poverty, sickness, and death as they return home. They have been redeemed from slavery, yes, but not much more.

2. In our sermon today, we will not examine the human causes for human slavery, though that is an interesting study. Rather, we will only use human slavery as an illustration (because the Bible does so) to show the hopeless and the desperation 绝望 of the condition of the person who is a spiritual slave and to show the willingness of your Lord Jesus Christ to redeem you from your deep slavery.

3. Comparing human slavery to spiritual slavery is difficult. It is not a perfect illustration. No illustration is ever perfect.
a. Your salvation from slavery to sin was not paid for my money. No amount of money would pay off for your debt.
b. The price of your freedom had to be paid, not to the one who has you enslaved, but to the one who freed you from slavery. That one is God the Father. He even 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 beyond your ability to pay. It was way above your pay grade.
d. You were marauders 掠夺者 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 not one to rescue you. You were bound in sin and waiting for the culmination of that sin in the miseries of hell. So you see the limitation of comparing physical and spiritual slavery.

4. Yet you were redeemed through the paying of the full price of your freedom...not partial price...not a down payment with the rest to follow. The price of your freedom was paid in full. (Do you know what it is like to get your mortgage papers and burn them when your mortgage paid in full? Most people haven’t had that feeling, but what a feeling that must be!) But your redemption price was greater—especially considering all your sins upon sins and the compounded interest of your sins – how much you owed Jehovah. No good works, no money would suffice, no saints on your behalf merited 应得 anything, no good intentions to live right – nothing would suffice to pay for your freedom.

1 Peter 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.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

And with the price paid in full, you are now free from that hellish spiritual bondage. God was 100% satisfied with the substitutionary 代贖性 price. He could not ask for more. God would have erred if he asked for more than what Christ offered as a payment for your sins. Christ's blood satisfied God's anger.

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 – a freedom that is not limited to Jews alone but it also applies to the Gentiles. If you are a Christian, you are spiritually debt free. A good reason to say: Praise the Lord.

1 Timothy 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,

This testimony of Paul, however, is not just with regards to men's salvation, but it will also prove that those who rejected God's salvation will die in their sins and go to hell.

5. Why did Jesus Christ have to redeem you with his blood? Why would nothing else do? Why couldn't Jesus Christ teach you and set a good example for you and then go back to heaven? Why couldn't he accept charity to the poor as a substitute for sin? If he allowed charity for sins at least some good would come out of it, wouldn't it? Answer: Since God is the one who is offended by sin, he is the one who determines how it is atoned 贖罪 for. He said that no one could approach him without blood.

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 母牛糞的灰 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?

And if Jesus did not ransom you with his blood no one else would and no one else could ransom you. Note again that Jesus did not pay the Devil for your freedom. Yes, you were in the Devil's lap, but Jesus satisfied the Father's anger. When his anger was satisfied, he then took you from the Devil and established you as his Son with a new name, a new record, and a new life. Let's hear about that new life now.

Jesus Christ is Your Lord because he has Restored you

1. One of the problems of the ending of slavery in the US abruptly 突然 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, or even having the experience to order their lives. It was cruel to set the 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. How would they build houses? No wonder many slaves refused to leave and continued to work for their former masters. Other joined a life of robbery. On the other hand, in the West Indies, as slavery was about to be abolished the British planned for what would happen when hundreds of thousands of people were suddenly freed. They established an order where the domestic and field slaves would be given more freedom and pay over time...and then freed them after a period of 2-4 years. It was a fair effort.

2. When you were set free from sin you had no direction either. But Christ did not leave you there. He 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. What a great price he paid for your freedom. He then equipped you with everything you need (as prophet, priests, and king under him) to live worthy lives. You have Spirit. You have his church. You have elders. You have signs. You have discipline.

3. What then is your response? You have to live your life for the glory of him who rescued you from darkness and established you in his light.

1 Corinthians 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.

Let's hear how you are to respond to the one who redeemed you and restored you to fellowship with the Father.

Jesus Christ is your Lord, so you Respond to him

1. What do you give a man who has given you a job, a life, safety, and riches beyond measure? You would probably say: I owe that man my life. Now let's go further: What would you give Christ who gave you infinitely more? You

worship him in spirit and in truth. Work for him with all the energies and wisdom you have.

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. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 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.

God's law is divided in two parts: In your worship of God (1-4) and in your work for mankind (5-10). So you look to his law to find out how to respond for your redemption and restoration.

2. What do you give a man a man who has everything? What would you give Jesus Christ who doesn't need anything from you? And get that right, you don't give Jesus anything that he needs. 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 favorable thing by letting you worship him. So you give him what he asks for. Worship him in the right way. Work for him – work hard. When was the last time you invited someone to worship? When was the last time you told someone about Jesus Christ? When was the last time you worshipped God in your home? Is your life a life of service...a service to God and to mankind? But also remember that your worship makes the Lord happy. He gains joy when you show that you understand the greatness of your redemption, and then you speak of him and you speak for him. **He is joyful even when you ask for things!!!**

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

3. And please note the personal nature of our Catechism: Jesus Christ is our Lord. He is not some distant person. He is your personal Savior and he is now your loving Lord. Look at how he describes your relationship him, even as he is your Lord.

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, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

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

Conclusion:

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, ordained 预定 your redemption from sin, death, and hell by his precious blood, and then restore you 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. A non-Christian cannot do this serve God. He can't do good works.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You were miserable wretches without any hope for the future. Yet, Jesus loved you so much. He humbled himself to come from heaven to suffer the humiliating death on the cross, pierced, and beaten, and put into the ground for you. Do you show that love back to him for his great redemption of a great wretch like you? Are you willing to face hardships for Christ... maybe have to quit a bad job, or be subject to persecution? Are you reluctant to come to worship; does worship seem like weariness? Or do you see worship as you doing the Lord a favor? It certainly isn't. Do you work for the good of your neighbors... maybe sharing with them the good news of Jesus Christ?

Finally, if Jesus is not your Lord you will die and go to hell, where you will fairly pay for all your sins. But while you have life, there is still hope. You can call on God today in prayer 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 forever in heaven.