

Heidelberg Catechism 34 – Curious about Kurios

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus is your Friend. He is your Father. He is your Provider – as the True Vine 真葡萄酸. He is your brother. He is your **LORD**–Jehovah- your Covenant God (as is used in the Old Testament and printed in uppercase letters - LORD.) 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 your Lord **has Redeemed you**

Jesus your Lord **has Restored you**

Jesus your Lord, **your Response 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, 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. Historically, a man could buy another man out of slavery 奴隶. You see, most people did not keep slaves because they hated other races; most people kept slaves because it was financially profitable. So when a rich person offered to pay a large amount of money to a master for a slave to go free, the owner usually obliged 有义务. A slave who might have inherited a large amount of money could buy his freedom. Christians still redeem slaves today. They pay Arabs to release young African children, mostly girls, who were kidnapped and sold to them as slaves. It cost about \$2,700. to free a slave from Arabs. 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.

2. We 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 we talk about slavery and redemption to show the work of your Jesus Christ who redeemed you from deep slavery and became your Lord.

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

a. Your redemption from slavery to sin **was not paid for my money.** 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.** 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 100% beyond your ability to pay.**

d. You were marauders 乱兵 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 waiting for the culmination of that sin in the miseries of hell.

4. 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. (Do you know what it is like to get your mortgage papers and burn them when your mortgage is paid in full? Most people haven’t had that feeling, but what a feeling that must be!) Your redemption price was 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, no saints praying on your behalf merited anything - nothing would suffice to pay for your freedom.

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, you, Jews and Gentiles are now free from that hellish spiritual bondage.

God was 100% satisfied with the substitutionary 替代性 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. You are debt free. Praise the Lord.

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

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,**

6. This testimony of Paul also proves that those who rejected God's salvation will die in their sins and go to hell.

7. Why did Jesus Christ have to redeem you with his blood? 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 as Muslims do? 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 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 帐幕 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 母牛粪的灰, 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 买赎 you. 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's lap 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 Your Lord has Restored you

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

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 money to build a house, 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. No wonder many slaves refused to leave and continued to work for their former masters. Others chose robbery. But in the West Indies, as slavery was about to be abolished, the British planned. They established an order where the domestic and field slaves would be given more freedom and pay...and then freed after a period of 2-4 years. It was a fairer effort.

2. When you were set free from sin you had no direction either. But Christ did not leave you there. God had a plan for you, the blest plan **that money couldn't buy.** 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. He then equipped 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 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 团契 with the Father.

Jesus your Lord, your Response 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. Go further: What would you give Christ who gave you infinitely more?

a. You would worship him in spirit and in truth. Law 1-4

b. You would 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**.

So you look to his law for guidance.

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? 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. So you give him what he asks for. Worship him in the right way. Work for him – work hard. But let me ask: **When was the last time you invited someone to worship?** When was the last time you told someone about Jesus? 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? And also remember that your worship makes the Lord happy. **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. See the personal nature of our Catechism 要理问答: 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.

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 坏蛋 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. 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 that 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 逼迫? Are you willing to come to worship...even when you don't feel like it...or when there is snow on the ground?

2. In obedience to Christ, do you work for the good of your neighbors...sharing with them the good news of Jesus Christ? 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.

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.