

# THE SACRAMENT OF LIVING

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*EPIPHANY 2011*

Everyone has a god, in the sense that everyone puts something first in ones life: Money, power, prestige, self, career, love and so forth. There must be something in your life that operates as your source of meaning and strength, something that you regard, at least implicitly, as the supreme power of your life. If you think your priority in life is to be a transcendent person, you will have a God with a capital letter. If you think of your highest values as a cause, an ideal, or an ideology, you will have a god with a small letter. Either way you will have something that is driving you.

**Alan Hirsch**

Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say?

**Jesus**

# JESUS IS LORD

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## *Philippians 2 vs. 5-11*

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<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## *Neil Cole*

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Ultimately each church will be evaluated by only one thing. Its disciples. Your church is only as good as its disciples. It does not matter how good your praise, preaching, programs or property are: If your disciples are passive, needy, consumerist, and not moving in the direction of radical obedience, your church is not good.

**WHERE TO BEGIN?**

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*Glen H. Stassen and David P. Gushee*

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*It is no overstatement to claim that the evasion of the teachings of Jesus constitutes a crisis of Christian identity and raises the question of who exactly is functioning as the Lord of the church. When Jesus' way of discipleship is thinned down, marginalized or avoided, then churches and Christians lose their antibodies against infection by secular ideologies that manipulate Christians into serving the purposes of some other lord. We fear precisely that kind of idolatry now.*

LORDSHIP

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# THE OLD TESTAMENT

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# THE SHEMA

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## *Deuteronomy 6*

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“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again. Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

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## *Romans 11*

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For everything comes from him; everything exists by his power and is intended for his glory. To him be glory evermore. Amen.

# OUR CHALLENGE

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## *Alan Hirsch : ReJesus*

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The sole sovereignty of God is realized only by stern struggle with other gods, with all the forces that oppose his will. This is to say that, to the biblical writers, monotheism begins not as a stage of metaphysical speculation, not as a final step in the development out of polytheism, not as the merging of all gods into one (as in Hinduism), but when one God becomes the decisive reality for a particular man and thereby calls for the dethronement of all other gods.

# JESUS CENTRAL MESSAGE

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## *Luke 14*

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<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even life itself—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

## *Luke 6*

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<sup>46</sup>“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

## *1 John 2*

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<sup>3</sup>We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.  
<sup>4</sup>Those who say, “I know him,” but do not do what he commands are liars, and the truth is not in them. <sup>5</sup>But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

## *James 4*

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<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? <sup>6</sup>But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble and oppressed."

## *1 John 2*

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<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If you love the world, love for the Father is not in you. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful people, the lust of their eyes and their boasting about what they have and do—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

**SEX**

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## *1 Corinthians 6*

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<sup>12</sup>“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup>You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

## *1 Corinthians 6*

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<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins people commit are outside their bodies, but those who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

## *2 Corinthians 6-7*

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<sup>14</sup>Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

## *2 Corinthians 6-7*

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<sup>17</sup>Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” <sup>18</sup>And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Chapter 7 Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

**MONEY**

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## *Matthew 6*

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<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup>“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! <sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

# POWER

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# OUR RESPONSE

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## *1 Peter 2*

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<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

**REPENTANCE**

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## *Romans 2*

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<sup>4</sup>Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

# COMING TO JESUS

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## *Matthew 11*

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<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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These days, the best people don't abuse alcohol. they abuse their lives... You're successful, so good things happen. You complete a project, and you feel dynamite. That feeling doesn't last long forever, and you slide back to normal. You think, "I've got to start a new project" - which is still normal. But you love the feeling of euphoria, so you've got to have it again. the problem is, you can stay on that high. Say you're working on a deal and it doesn't get approved.

*Mary Bell*

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Your self-esteem is on the line, because you've been gathering your self worth externally. Eventually, in this cycle, you drop to the pain level more and more often. The highs don't seem quite so high. You may win a deal that's even bigger than the one that got away, but somehow that deal doesn't take you to euphoria. Next time, you don't even get back to normal, because you're so desperate about clinching the next deal. An "achievement addict" is no different from any other kind of addict.

# SETTING CHRIST APART AS LORD

## *1 Peter 3*

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<sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

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