

I am busy reminding us of this vital message that I quoted a few years ago when I told you about this statement made famous by the great Missionary Hudson Taylor:

“Christ is either Lord of all, or is not Lord at all”

Over the last few weeks as we have looked at this statement, I have told you that in my final sermon in this series I am going to ask the question: SO WHAT?? If I have managed to convince you of the significance of the quote of Hudson Taylor, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS.

IN THE FIRST WEEK I asked the question

**WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO REALISE THAT
JESUS IS LORD OF ALL? - Acts 10**

IN THE SECOND WEEK we looked at:

FIVE REASONS WHY I PREACH JESUS IS LORD

IN THE THIRD WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEMONS

IN THE FOURTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASE

IN THE FIFTH WEEK we looked at:

JESUS IS LORD OVER DEATH

IN THE SIXTH WEEK we looked at:

**WHY JUST SAYING “JESUS IS LORD” DOESN’T
NECESSARY MAKE JESUS LORD**

LAST WEEK we looked at:

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING “JESUS AS LORD”

THIS WEEK I want us to look:

The RELATIONSHIP between HUMAN RIGHTS and the LORDSHIP OF JESUS

Tomorrow in South Africa we have a Public Holiday which is called Human Rights Day to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa.

The day was originally chosen to help the country reflect on a day defined by the horrific Sharpeville massacre that happened on 21 March 1960. The day began with demonstrations in the township of Sharpeville against the Apartheid Government's pass laws, which restricted the rights of the Black people in the country to move freely around the country.

The first **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (UDHR) document in the history of human rights was drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the

United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948. The purpose of the Document is to serve as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.

As we are considering the topic of "The Lordship Of Jesus", I thought it may be worth our while to consider the relationship between the two.

SO, as we consider the RELATIONSHIP between HUMAN RIGHTS and the LORDSHIP OF JESUS

1) Notice, Firstly, GOD IS TOTALLY CONNECTED TO HUMANS

We are connected in the Following WAYS:

1. THE CREATION STORY CONNECTS US TO GOD

Genesis 1:26-29 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." v27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. v28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." v29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

The KEY VERSE IS **v27 So God created man in his own image.**

There can be no closer connection than to be made in the IMAGE of someone.

TRUE Human rights are God ordained rights.

2. THE REVELATION STORY CONNECTS US TO GOD

Genesis 2:15-16 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. v16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;*
Genesis 3:8-9 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. v9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO HUMANS. The basis of all rights is COMMUNICATION. If you cannot communicate you cannot negotiate. The great difference between the animal and plant kingdom and the Human kingdom lies in our ability to COMMUNICATE.

GOD HAS BEEN COMMUNICATING ALL THROUGH HISTORY

Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, v2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

3. **THE INCARNATION STORY CONNECTS US TO GOD**

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. v2 He was with God in the beginning.*

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

GOD IS SO INTERESTED IN HUMANS, HE BECAME ONE.

He experienced every trial faced by every human, SO KNOWS US THOROUGHLY

Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.*

4. **THE CRUCIFIXION STORY CONNECTS US TO GOD**

Hebrews 9:27-28 *And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment, v28 so also Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again but not to deal with our sins again. This time he will bring salvation to all those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

The final enemy of HUMANITY is death

EVEN GOD IN CHRIST EXPERIENCED DEATH

WE ARE CONNECTED TO GOD, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT

SO, as we consider the RELATIONSHIP between HUMAN RIGHTS and the LORDSHIP OF JESUS

2) **Notice, Secondly, THE BIBLE IS FULL OF INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS**

1. **THE BIBLE TEACHES EQUALITY BEFORE CHRIST**

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

One of the great examples Jesus displayed while he walked the face of this earth was in how he treated people.

He treated WOMEN with DIGNITY

He welcomed CHILDREN

He visited the outcast

ONE OF THE TESTS OF AUTHENTIC FAITH AT THE END WILL BE ON HOW WE HAVE TREATED THE OUTCAST:

Matthew 25:31-40 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. v32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. v33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. v34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. v35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, v36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' v37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? v38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? v39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' v40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

2. THE BIBLE TEACHES RESPECT FOR OTHERS

1 Peter 3:15-17 But in your hearts set apart 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**, v16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. v17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

The most important task given to the Church as Jesus was leaving this world to return to heaven, is to tell others about Jesus, as found in the Great Commission in:

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

But we are reminded in 1 Peter that we cannot force our beliefs on others.

The very foundation of Baptist's was this:

In the early 1600s King James I of England claimed to be the head of the Church of England as well as of the government of England. He demanded that all churches conform to his will. Thomas Helwys, a Baptist pastor, wrote a book entitled *A Short Declaration of the Mystery of Iniquity* in which he insisted that the king had no right to dictate to persons and churches what to believe.

Helwys sent a copy of the book to King James with a personal inscription in which he declared, "**The king is a mortal man and not God and therefore has no power over the immortal souls of his subjects, to make laws and ordinances for them and to set spiritual lords over them.**" For his statement of this Bible truth, the king imprisoned the pastor, and he died in prison, refusing to recognize anyone other than Jesus as Lord of the churches

3. **THE BIBLE GOES BEYOND HUMAN RIGHTS.**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus goes way beyond Human Rights. Jesus say this in

*Matt 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' v44 **But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** v45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. v46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? v47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? v48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Human Rights are important, BUT, we Christians should GO EVEN ONE STEP FUTHER. Go the extra mile.

SO, as we consider the RELATIONSHIP between HUMAN RIGHTS and the LORDSHIP OF JESUS

3) **Notice, Thirdly, HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN JESUS IS LORD**

We have just seen that THE BIBLE GOES BEYOND HUMAN RIGHTS.

How is it possible for us to LOVE OUR ENEMIES? On one occasion Jesus said this in:

***Matt 22:34-39** Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. v35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: v36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" v37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' v38 This is the first and greatest commandment. v39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*

Here Jesus tells us how we can do the second most important Commandment. The answer is simple, DO THE FIRST

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

CONCLUSION

SO, TRUE HUMAN RIGHTS CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN “JESUS IS LORD”