

The Lordship of Christ over All of Life: How We Use Our Minds

No one who is a believer would consciously deny the full Lordship of Jesus Christ. There are, however, a number of ways we inadvertently diminish His Lordship. This talk explores how a diminished Lordship impacts the way we use our minds as believers. A strong foundation for apologetics must begin with an acknowledgment of Christ's full Lordship. How ought this to impact the way we think?

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DIMINISHED LORDSHIP = WEAK MIND

FULL LORDSHIP = STRONG MIND

I. DIMINISHED LORDSHIP – and the WEAK MIND

- A. Occurs through the creation of several DUALITIES, by which we recreate reality:
THE DIVIDED REALITY MODEL (THE TWO COLUMNS);

LEFT COLUMN

Spiritual (soul)
Sacred (church)
Redemption (salvation)

RIGHT COLUMN

Material (body)
Secular (world)
Creation (all the rest)

- B. This divided reality presses us to two obligations in terms of the way we live:

- a) We assign a much higher value to activities in the left column.
- b) We only acknowledge Christ's full lordship on the left side.
(This is the diminished Lordship).

- C. The historical context for the divided reality model

- a) Pietism

- b) Wendell Berry – ‘Modern Christianity became as specialized in its organization as other organizations, wholly concentrated on growth and counting its success in numbers, and on the very strange enterprise of ‘saving’ the individual, isolated, and disembodied soul. ... The modern church presumes to be able to save the soul as an eternal piece of private property.’

D. Connecting a diminished Lordship to a weak mind?

- a) G R Cragg – ‘Pietism failed to keep spiritual vitality and intellectual vigor in proper balance, and this was its most serious defect. It was responsible for the relative sterility of Pietism as a theological force ... the intellectual timidity of the movement disguised itself in vivid, almost sensuous forms of expression.’
- b) Unable to find a secure place for the mind in the right column via The DIVIDED REALITY model - meant the Christian mind found a home only in the left column.
- c) Harry Blamires - ‘There is no longer a Christian mind. Unfortunately the Christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness ... unmatched in Christian history. It is difficult to do justice in words to the complete loss of intellectual morale in the 20th century church. One cannot characterize it without having recourse to language which will sound hysterical and melodramatic.

II. FULL LORDSHIP – and the STRONG MIND

A. FULL LORDSHIP

- a) To acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of all life is to resist the dualities of the DIVIDED REALITY MODEL - He is Lord of both columns

B. Question: How do we resist this duality and acknowledge Christ as truly Lord of all?

- a) *Theological Missile* needed to 'take out' the DIVIDED REALITY MODEL:

- b) This means getting to grips with *the relationship of Christ to Creation and Redemption*.
- c) At the heart of a diminished Lordship is an incorrect understanding of how Christ is related to both creation and redemption.

C. How does this link to a STRONG MIND?

- a) When we acknowledge the full Lordship of Christ over His creation, it opens the door to a full engagement.
- b) The Christian mind engages with the whole of reality.

D. Three qualities of a Christian mind (a strong mind)

- a) A mind in complete submission to the word of CHRIST
- b) A mind with a passionate commitment to truth
- c) A mind that is Universal in its vision