

Who is Lord of Your Estate?

By Shelley Tvedt

To whom are you surrendered? Every human being lives in surrender to someone. There are no exceptions, and there are no half-surrenders: *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon"* (Matthew 6:24). Surrender is complete. Webster defines surrender as such: "In law, to yield an estate, as a tenant, into the hands of the lord for such purposes as are expressed in the act." It controls the whole course of our life because the one to whom we surrender becomes Lord of our estate and determines the quality of our lives.

Human life is an estate...a building made by God from the dust of the ground. He breathed into us the breath of life, and man became a living soul (Gen 2:7). Job 33:4 states, *"The Spirit of God hath made us, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."* As LORD of the estate, He has the right to determine the purpose of our life. He gave man life. He gave man choice. And man chose to determine his own destiny apart from the design of his Maker. In that choosing, man surrendered his life to a new lord...Satan.

Romans 6:16 says, *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* Satan is a thieving lord who did not come to truly give us a better life. His false enticement was that *"ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"* (Gen 3:4, 5). This was the work of one whose desire is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10a). *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* (Rom 5:12).

Today, each person born is subject to this lord. They live lives still rejecting Jesus Christ, believing that they are in charge of their own destiny as gods, pursuing what is good for food, what is pleasant to the eyes, and whatever is desired to make them wise, just like Adam and Eve (Gen 3:6). They do not truly see their lives for what they are: tenants surrendered to a lord that brings them to death (Rom. 6:23). Thinking they have the "whole world," they are lost (Mk 8:36, 37). Romans 7:5 states, *"For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death."* Sin and death are the quality of life that is chosen when Satan is the one to whom a life is surrendered. There is no escape. The cry is *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* (Rom. 7:24)

Jesus Christ enters His estate with the hope that is so desperately needed: *"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10b). He says in John 8:12 that *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* We have a new Master with a new surrender that yields life, righteousness, and peace. Our rightful LORD brings a new direction for our lives: *"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God"* (Romans 6:13). And again, we are reminded in Romans 6:19, *"For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."* Psalm 37:37 reminds us to *"mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace."*

God, knowing our helpless state, provided us an opportunity to surrender to the only One who

could defeat the lord of sin and death and change the quality of our life. Romans 6:23 explains that *“the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Our LORD commands us in James 4:7 to *“submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* Thus, our previous lord departs. We rejoice, for God *“hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”* (Col. 1:13, 14).

We are not our own. We spend every day surrendered to someone. We are estates under the jurisdiction of a lord...Satan or Christ. The question presented to the people in Jeremiah's time is still relevant today: *“Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death”* (Jer. 21:8). Let us hear Joshua when he says, *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve...”* (Josh. 24:15).