

## Chapter 37: Who Owns Your Life?

### Life Application Verses:

**Colossians 1: 16.** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **Job 41: 11:** Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. **1 Corinthians 6: 19-20:** 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; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. **Jeremiah 10: 23:** LORD, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.

**W**ho owns my life? I was listening to my local pastor this past Sunday, and he told a story of a senior citizen who was leaving the grocery store. She was walking to her vehicle, when she noticed four young men sitting in her car. She had recently been learning to use a gun and as she approached the car, she took out the gun and pointed it at them as she yelled, "Get out of my car!!!" The four young men nearly ran over each other as they scrambled out, looking back at the armed and hysterical woman as they ran from the car. She then put the groceries in the back seat, and tried to get the key to fit into the ignition. She tried it this way, that way—but it just would not fit. She took a moment to look around and discovered that on the outside it looked just like her car, but on the inside things were strange to her. Yes, you guessed it, it was not her car. Imagine what the four young men were saying as they ran for their lives! Moral of the story: be sure that you own what you think you own. Which brings us full-circle to the Life Application Verses.

Think about this for a moment: ownership. When you bought that SUV, you owned it, right? It is yours, you drive it, you take it in for maintenance, and you wash and wax it. Right? Well, if you consider the materials it took to build it, where did those come from? The Earth. Who owns the Earth? God. He made it, and, therefore, it belongs to him.



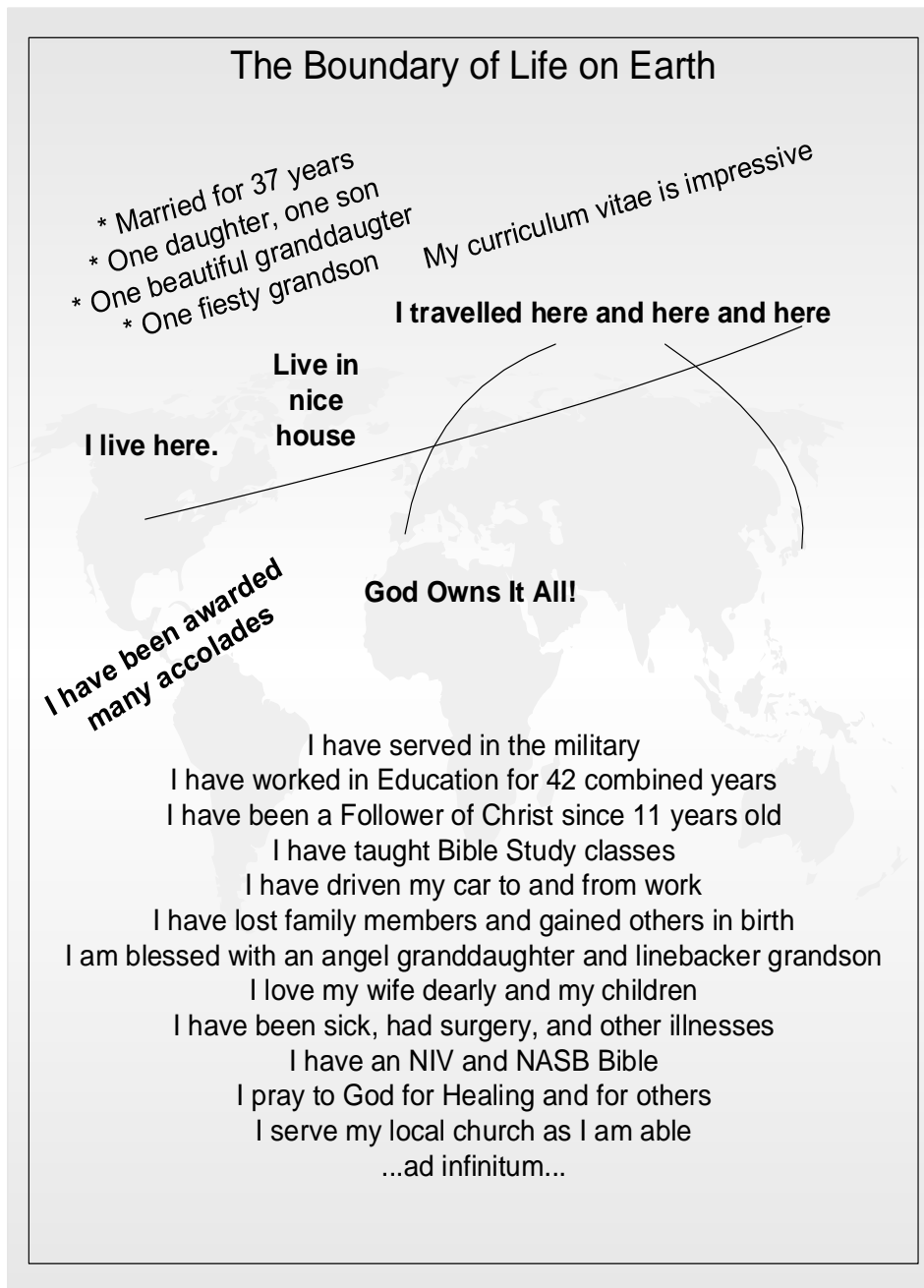
Consequently, do not all the things on Earth belong to God? Even our very lives? But in this discussion lies a Truth that we so often miss. That truth is found in the Life Application Verses, particularly in Jeremiah 10: 23: "LORD, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps." Now, wait a minute: how can it be that it is not for us to direct our

own steps? If our lives are not our own, does God direct every single step we take, every single decision that we make, and every choice we choose? I am just 'plain and simple' confused to the max! For example, I got up this morning, cut the grass, washed and waxed the SUV and car, and then rested for an hour or so afterwards. You mean to tell me that all of that was done so that I can hear from the words of Jeremiah that my life is not my own; that it is not for me to direct my own steps? LISTEN carefully: in the free-will, secular, self-centered, I-don't-need-God-life, Jeremiah is not something that a Godless person plans to worry about; no matter, God owns free-will and he gives it to us freely. On the other hand, there are millions of us that live Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good who believe Jeremiah without reservation when he said, "Lord, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps." Please understand that for the unbeliever, God does not direct their steps because they disregard His Will and Salvation, thus they negate His direction because they have the free-will to do so; for the true, born-again Christian, we seek His Will and live in His free-will so that our steps might be directed by God in Christ Jesus. You see? If you don't believe in Christ or in God, how can your steps be ordered? For followers of Christ, we DESIRE to have our steps ordered by God in and through Christ Jesus! I don't know about you, but that gives me Peace of Mind!

If you are in the latter category above (Christian), you allow your free-will to accept this lesson and apply it to your life. You know from the time the sun rises until it sets that God owns your life. That is fact, undisputed, and without reservation in the Depth of our Soul. We know who owns our life! It belongs to God in Christ Jesus and we gladly give it to our Lord and Savior. But, the world doesn't see it like that. The person who never even worries that God exists, is a person self-contained, self-derived, self-driven, self-reliant, self-centered, and self-saved. They don't even realize or care that God owns their life! To them, the question of "who owns your life?" is about as worthy of consideration as their consideration of other people. If you live the me-myself-and-I life, then of course the question of who owns my life is ridiculous! Preposterous! Ridiculous! (oops, said that one already...sorry).

The problem in all of this is this: God owns it ALL! He made it ALL. He controls it ALL. He gave His ALL in Christ on the Cross. Are you getting this? He owns the lumber in your house, the nails that hold the house together, the wind that blows across your yard, the job you have,

the bank account you have built, the legs you walk with, the hair or lack of it, the birds that fly over your head, and the very songs those birds sing. With that noted, **what** is the concept of life? What does it look like? If you think deeply on the subject of “what does life look like”, what is it? We talk about our lives, but can you diagram it? Can you capture it in a resume or curriculum vitae? Let me show you what I think it might look like graphically. Keep in mind that Picasso nearly flunked me out of his class during ‘drawing lessons.’ See the image below:



**THIS IS YOUR  
LIFE  
("Fill in the  
Square")**

This is your life. This is my life. This is just life. In the boundary you see, it contains the whole of life as we could diagram it with more details than we might have time to invest. Like, remember that time I was 14 and I jumped out the window and ran away... (just making this up, but do you see what I am

getting at? We could literally fill up the boundary with probably millions of events, thoughts, actions, outcomes, sharing, prayer, and so on). To reiterate: what is not shown are the trillions of thoughts, actions, Prayers, Love, emotions, Bible study, Salvation, and ... just life. It is full of things, including Earthly and Spiritual. You say it doesn't look like your life? Think of ALL the things you are, do, say, hope for, have experienced, and then write ALL of that into the boundary you see in the graphical image. That is your life. Your life is the ABSOLUTE collection of what you have done, said, thought, wanted to do, didn't want to do, shouldn't have done, Love, Hate, bias, miles jogged, and on and on and on and on... That collection of ALL things is your life—and my life. Now, the linchpin: God Owns Your Life. He gave us absolute Free-Will to apply in our life, whether that list of things is good, bad, or indifferent. He gave us Breath of Life at birth and we “fill up the box” in the graphical representation from birth to death. At our departure, our life here stops adding to the ‘box’ and that life is returned to God. We leave the Boundary of Life on Earth and we enter the Boundary of Heaven. But, before I drift too far off topic, let's ask ourselves again the vital question: “Who Owns Your Life?” Is this beginning to make sense? Let's also take a look at another Life Application Verse in terms of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good, and living an extraordinary life for God in Christ Jesus. (For the Christian, living for God in Christ is our life!)

**1 Corinthians 6: 19-20:** “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; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” Hmm...I see a conflict a'brewin. Do you? The conflict is this: if God owns our lives, does he own our thoughts? Our actions? Our bad deeds? In a sense, He does own them in that He provided us a gift that we so often abuse or neglect to consider in Heavenly Minded terms: free-will. Now, let's clear up something about this free-will thing. Free is to have no boundaries to do as we ‘darn well please.’ Free Will is the gift to decide for ourselves what freedoms we will exercise in whatever way we will do so. IN other words, free-will is to do as we please. Therein lieth the rub! God doesn't own the bad choices we make; He owns the free-will we used to make those bad choices. He doesn't just on the whim of one Monday morning decide to take free-will from you and me; He owns it and he ‘lets us borrow it.’ That is the Heavenly Minded variable in this discussion; on the other hand,

our Earthly Good should be to remember that free-will is a Heavenly Gift and we should be wise in the use of this God-owned gift. Even so, part of our life in the box I have drawn includes free-will to do those things that make up our life. Just beyond the free-will aspect, is the Eternal part of all this. For example, if we are beings that are made of flesh and blood, and nothing more, our lives would seem pointless if that is all we are or will ever be. However, and this is getting to the nuts-and-bolts of this topic, ask yourself this: “Who owns my life on Earth?” Respond with this: if God were to call-in-the-chips on the air I breathe, what might result? Nope---don’t answer that. You don’t even need to cogitate for a twinkling-of-an-eye second, do you? You know very well what the result of that would be! God owns the air and all that our senses tell us—ALL OF IT! But, stay with me...ask yourself this question: Who Owns My Eternal Life? God owns it: He gave us life and a Soul and He owns it. Yet, in His Glory and Grace, He gave us the ‘bestest out’ we can imagine: Jesus Christ on the Cross. But free-will gives us the ability to choose Jesus Christ or reject Him. There is NO MIDDLE GROUND once we leave this world...NONE!!! Choose this day whom you will serve in Eternity! The enemy or Jesus Christ!

It’s about to get deep in here, so pull up those waders and come on in. God owns our lives, from sun-up to sun-down, and everything in between. This life is important for all the reasons you can think of (keep filling in that boundary in the image provided above). If you think about it, God not only owns our Earthly lives, He owns our Eternal lives and the Holy God of All Things gave us such an easy burden that we stumble all over it; we make up other beliefs and excuses and religious forms of anti-God stuff. The world is replete with stuff people believe to avoid a Faith in Christ! Yet, God owns those lives too. Should they depart this Earth without Christ, they are destined for the Lake of Fire. And, here’s the heavy in this entire chapter: God owns our Life, from time without end, and He gave us free-will to decide how that life is owned! We—NOT GOD—WE choose the final outcome! God owns our lives, but we choose how that ownership happens—in this life and in Eternal life. We can REBEL against God in Christ or we can REJOICE for God in Christ. What a plan, God of Heaven! You own our lives, hands-down! But, smack-dab-in-the-middle of that Holy Ownership, you gave us a “Caveat Emptor Clause” which states: “I, Jehovah God, own your life in the fullness of all things. Yet, because of My Love for You, I gave my Son, Jesus Christ, to enable you to choose how I own that life.” Told you it

was about to get deep ... He, God, gave us the responsibility for our lives, both Earthly and Heavenly. Now do you see why Jesus said He would never leave us nor forsake us? Do you see now how The Life Application Verses apply and what they mean?

SO, who owns my life? I do. But I own it in the Knowledge and Grace and Mercy and Love and Salvation and Holiness of Almighty God in the Saving Knowledge and Grace and Mercy and Love and Salvation and Holiness of Christ Jesus, the One and Only Son of Almighty God. God gives me free-will to decide how Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good I will be in living an extraordinary life for Him through Christ here on this Third Rock From The Sun. He made this rock, the other planets, oxygen, and all things to be able to live this life, with the most important thing being my Choice to Accept or Reject Jesus as Lord and Savior. Once I make this decision, who owns my life becomes immaterial as I give my life to the One Who Owns it outright anyway! Once I figured that out, I can live fully and freely in His Grace, Mercy, and Love. This doesn't mean life becomes nirvana; on the contrary, this life remains as it was with its pitfalls, trials, and tribulations. But, because of Jesus I can place my life in the Hands of the One Who Owns My Life even before I was born! The difference? I know that the Owner of My Life is the One Who Holds the Keys to Heaven and Heaven is where I hear-tell there are no more tears, or sorrows, or end! Who owns your life? I hope by now, you know the answer...

**Question of Curiosity:**

Don't get lost in personal ownership of your Soul and lose your Soul. If you have received Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have been bought with a price. That cost gives God ownership of your Soul twice: in our creation and birth, He owned us; in Salvation, He owns us Forever. Ownership by our enemy is too horrible to contemplate. And you say...

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"In our good works nothing is our own." — John Calvin, French theologian and reformer.

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." — Martin Luther, German reformer and theologian.

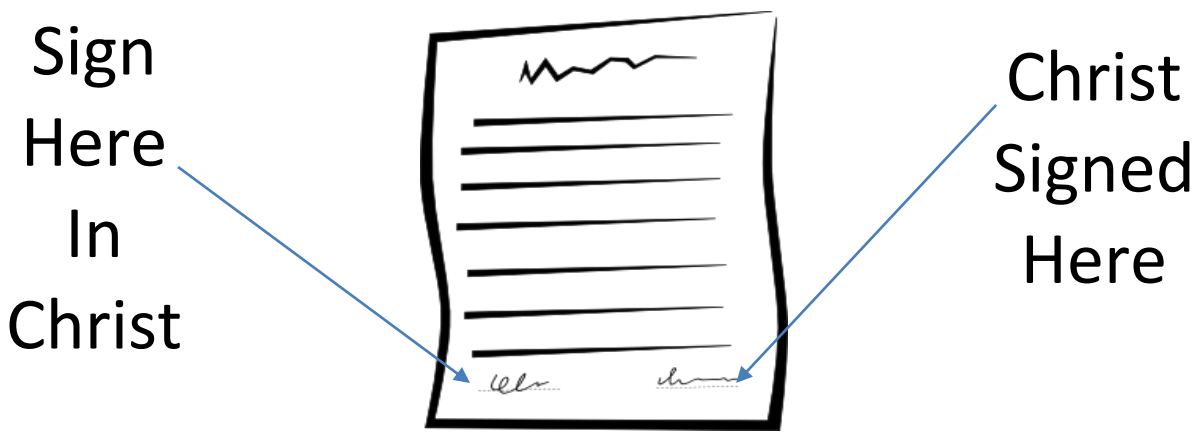
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**My Ownership Prayer For You (from a previous chapter):**

Father God, I am unworthy to add to your words. In humbleness, I minister to my brothers and sisters in Christ by offering these words of Jesus: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another." ~ To you O Lord, we give all Praise, Honor and Glory, Amen. ~

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**Who Owns Your Life? *Your Page in the Book of Life***



***Your missing signature means "you kept your life from Jesus."***