

Eminent Part 2

I said last Sunday's message was the introduction to today's message. We shifted from the word Imminent, focusing on the Imminent return of the Lord and its' impact upon our lives, to the word Eminent. **Imminent means "appearing as if about to happen; likely to happen without delay; impending."**

Eminent means "rising above other things or places; high, prominent; renowned, exalted, distinguished; outstanding, remarkable, noteworthy, celebrated."

We focused last Sunday on Jesus and his eminence. He is eminent, standing above all other persons, places or things. He is exalted, remarkable, noteworthy, praise worthy. You may recall I read that marvelous passage from Augustine's *Confessions* that spoke of Jesus and his extraordinary nature. Jesus is the one to whom we ascribe glory and honor, the eternal Son of God, the Lamb that was slain, the one who is indeed eminent in every sense of the word.

When I hear the word eminent used in our culture, there is often another word associated with it. You may have heard this term used in the past few years. **Eminent Domain.** The simplest definition is **"...the right of a government or its agent to expropriate private property for public use, with payment of compensation."** (It's possible the state will exercise eminent domain to take part of our property across the street in the highway construction.) According to Wikipedia, (the keeper of all knowledge in the universe apparently), the term was taken from a legal treatise written by Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius in 1625. He used the Latin term *dominium eminens* which is literally translated **"Supreme ownership" or "Supreme Lordship."** I doubt Hugo Grotius in 1625 had any idea that a preacher in Oklahoma almost four hundred years later would be referencing his legal terminology and borrowing it for a sermon but you already know where I'm going. Because Jesus is Eminent, above all other powers and principalities, the one in whom the fullness of God dwells bodily, the one by whom all things were made, the one who is before all things and in whom all things hold together, because of who Jesus is in our lives, as the apostle Paul said, in him we live and move and have our being, he holds and exercises *dominium eminens*, supreme Lordship and supreme ownership. He has eminent domain in and over our lives. At least he should. That's what I want us to consider this morning. If He has eminent domain, supreme Lordship, have we acknowledged that? And if we have, what does that mean for us? Let's start here. Think about that sense of Supreme Ownership.

The bible says, **“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” 1 Peter 1:18-19** Eminent domain says a price is to be paid for the purchase, the new ownership, and it was. Redemption was made. How valuable you are, that you were redeemed from that empty way of life and given a brand new life in him and the price that was paid, Jesus paid with his own precious blood.

We have been redeemed by him, purchased by him and that suggests we belong to him. Supreme ownership in the greatest sense of that word. We are his and He writes his name on us. And consider this. The Apostle Paul says **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” Galatians 5:1.** I know the term “ownership” may sound ominous, but His ownership, his claim upon our lives results in our ultimate freedom, not bondage. Christ redeemed us, put his name on us in order that we could be free from sin and its consequences. Satan puts his mark on you for bondage, for slavery, but Jesus takes ownership so we can be free! Free to be everything God intended. Free to live in his purpose, free to approach life from his other’s centered perspective, free to live life with a pure heart, pure motives, pleasing to God.

Eminent Domain. Supreme Ownership and Supreme Lordship in our life. Let’s think of the impact on these three areas: **Purity, Perspective and Purpose.**

The apostle Paul writes, **“Do you not know that your body is a temple 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 body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Paul tells us that because we belong to Jesus, it changes the way we live. It affects the choices we make. We aren’t simply honoring God with our mind, giving intellectual assent to Christian doctrine or Scripture, we are to honor God with our body. We are to live a life of purity. So what does that mean?

Purity. Purity is freedom from anything that contaminates. Uncompromised, unadulterated. A pure life is one in which sin no longer controls, no longer determines our choices. Instead, we are now free to choose God’s way, free to choose life and not death, free to follow Christ, to honor him and his word. We belong to him and we choose to live in ways that bring honor to him, to his name.

Purity includes sexual purity. The verse just above in 1 Corinthians 6 says, “Flee from sexual immorality.” That’s the context in which Paul is telling us we are not our own. As followers of Christ, we aren’t choosing our own sexual preferences, we are living a life surrendered to him, honoring to him. So yes, purity involves our sexuality, honoring God with our bodies, our choices, remaining chaste, but that isn’t all. James writes, **“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27**

God expects us to live pure lives in terms of all our relationships. Not just in regard to sexual expression, but purity in how we treat others, how we treat widows and orphans, how we treat the stranger, the alien among us, how we treat those in need, that is pure religion. Purity in our actions, our thought life, purity in our words, purity in what we post on social media, purity by keeping ourselves from being polluted by the world, James said, from being corrupted by a culture that rejects God and honors possession and power and political influence above honoring Christ. Jesus said, **“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8** When our lives are impure, it clouds our vision of God, of who he is. It’s hard to follow when we can’t see him. Walking in purity means we see Him and when we do we then can reflect his nature and his light into the world and we can enjoy fellowship with him. Eminent domain means honoring God with our body, living and walking in purity.

Perspective. Eminent domain, His supreme Lordship in our life means we see things from an eternal perspective, a perspective where He has eminence. Our values are different because of his Lordship. We don’t live with an attitude of getting all we can, but of giving all we can. We are called to live an other’s centered life, not living for ourselves, but living for God, surrendered to him and serving others. By doing so, we find what life is really all about. Jesus said, **“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:25-26** The world says we’ve got to find ourselves but then it suggests the only way to do that is by investing more and more in ourselves, feeding our appetites, surrendering to our own desires and pleasures, living our own way, pleasing ourselves. Jesus says losing our life in him, giving ourselves to him and then in turn, giving to and serving others, that’s how we will find ourselves, that’s how we find life. Giving ourselves to God and in behalf of others. Eugene Petersen’s Message translation reads,

“Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

Eminent domain, viewing life from his perspective. Paul writes, **“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.” Colossians 3:1-2**

With Christ in that place of supreme Lordship, and living life from his perspective, what will that look like? Paul goes on to tell us. Living life from his perspective means we will put away sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, we will stop lying and instead speak the truth. We won't tolerate racism or discrimination against others because Christ is all and is in all. We will see him, his image in one another. It's a new perspective. Read it in Colossians 3. With this new perspective we will clothe ourselves with compassion and kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We will bear with one another and forgive one another and love one another. That's living life from a heavenly perspective. If you live with your heart, your affection set on heavenly things and not earthly things, then you are more concerned with people than things, more concerned with eternal things than temporal things, more concerned with blessing others than with being served, more focused on building others up than with winning arguments. His supreme Lordship changes and re-focuses our perspective. It's about Jesus and eternity and not just this life.

Purpose. His eminent domain effects and impacts the way I view purpose in my life. God has a plan, a purpose for you, for your life. Paul writes in Philippians 3 (The Amplified Version) **“Not that I have already obtained it [this goal of being Christlike] or have already been made perfect, but I actively press on so that I may take hold of that [perfection] for which Christ Jesus took hold of me *and* made me His own.” Philippians 3:12** Jesus took hold of you, (eminent domain, supreme ownership and Lordship, and made you his own,) so he can make you complete and whole, so he can heal the brokenness and fill the emptiness and the void in your life, so you can live with a divine purpose, you can walk in purity, you can see life from a heavenly perspective. Paul tells us in Romans 8 that God has predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of his Son. He laid hold of us to make us his own and make us whole, to make us a blessing in this world!

Imagine the Dallas Cowboys, or whoever your favorite team is, imagine they obtain you, they buy out your contract and you belong to them. They took hold of you, acquired you, use

whatever language, and they say, “We see potential in you and we are going to switch your position, we know you’ve been playing offense, but we think you could become a hall of famer at this defensive position. You’ve never played at your full potential, but we believe you can. Welcome to your new destiny.” And you know it’s right for the first time. They made you their own so you could be everything you were created to be as a football player. It’s a corny analogy, but Jesus has apprehended you (that’s how one translation reads) and he wants to fulfill his purpose in your life, to make you everything you were intended to be. Are you ready? Are you ready to surrender to him, to his plan, his purpose? “Well, I was going to do this with my life. I was pursuing this, but I admit something is missing, something is lacking.” Grant him eminent domain, supreme ownership and supreme Lordship in your life. Surrender your life to him. Surrender to his call, his plan, his purpose, his ownership, his management, his Lordship. Live in purity, with a new perspective, and find a new purpose. You will never regret the decision to make Him Savior and Lord of your life. *Dominium eminens*. Supreme ownership. Supreme Lordship. Lord of All!

If you’re ready to surrender your life to Christ, I want you to bravely stand right where you are. You’ve taken this step, now take one more and meet me here and we are going to pray together.