



HONOR

Message Series
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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

This series can be adapted and used to teach to a congregation or a small group.

This series contains Message Notes for the teacher and outlines for the student. In the Message Notes some words are in purple; the purple words indicate what content is on the outline. The underlined words in the Message Notes indicate blanks on the outline.

Ideas to promote the series:

- You could purchase military dog tags to hand out at the beginning of this series.
- You could decorate the stage with a military theme.
- You could honor soldiers through contributing items for a care package
- You could bring in a veteran and have them share a story about honor

SERIES: HONOR
Part 1: Honoring God

Introduction: Today you got a dog tag as you walked in today as a symbol of honor. The military is only one example of how honor is displayed. Honor is a subject that applies to each of us everyday, at home, work, school and in the community.

Illustration: man given medal of honor in Iraqi war. He took fire so his unit could cross over to safety. He survived. The United States honored this soldier for laying down his life for his men. They showed the man how they valued him and his position in the military.

Honor is a characteristic of God.

If we want to know God better and live the life He has for us, it is necessary that we choose to value what God considers valuable and significant. Honor has importance with God. God is a God of honor.

WHAT HONOR WILL DO FOR YOU

- Honor will give us favor.
- Honor opens the door to success.
- Honor will release God's power.

To have God's blessings, it requires that we seek Him, not just what we want from Him.

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

- We pursue our Savior, not just our salvation.
- We pursue our Healer, not just our healing.
- We pursue our Provider, not just our provision.
- We pursue our Protector, not just our protection.
- We pursue our Deliverer, not just our deliverance.
- We pursue our Father, not just our inheritance blessings.

We are teaching on honor because we are in pursuit of an honorable God.

DEFINITIONS

- To honor means "to value, esteem, respect, glorify."

When you honor someone, you believe that they are worthy of your consideration and respect.

God sets the standard for what is honorable, significant, and worthy of our admiration. When we pursue honor, we will value what God values and despise the things that He despises.

Honor

- Honor also means “a price paid or received.”

Your value is based on the price God paid for you – the life of His Son, Jesus Christ.

When you pay a price for something, you pay the amount that you believe that item is worth. When you sell something, you receive the price based on what the item is worth to you.

Illustration: Antique Roadshow. Parents selling old toys – people paying 100’s of dollars now for an old toy their children used to play with. They give value to it.

We can receive what God has for us when we give honor to it.

Matthew 10:40-42 “(40) He who receives you receive Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (41) He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. (42) And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall be no means lose his reward.”

Honoring Others:

Honor for God
Honor for authority
Honor for peers
Honor for subordinates

American Culture

There are many Americans in the U.S.A. that honor God, our leaders, and our people. However, over the past 20 years or so we have seen a decrease of honor in our country.

There is a growing disrespect for God and His ways. Most people do not recognize their need for God. They don’t value Him or His offer of salvation. There is a growing disrespect for Christians, the church, and Biblical values.

More and more we are seeing a lack of honor for our leaders. If people don’t like the president or the party he represents, not only will they publicly disagree with him; but some will also take any faults or mistakes that he makes and broadcast them to the world.

Watch some of the television shows that we have out now. Many of them dishonor the husband in the home. Many of them make fun of teachers and parents. Even in shows for children, we see an attitude of disrespect for authority.

We’re seeing an increase in the disrespect people have for themselves and one another. It is more common to hear of murders, abortions, divorce, affairs, theft, homosexuality, etc. This is a topic based on our need for honor in our country.

GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM

In this series we are going to dive into the subject of honor. Today we are going to begin with the most important application of honor, which is honoring God.

I Samuel 2:30b "...those who honor Me (God) I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

God loves everyone, but He doesn't honor everyone. If someone isn't honoring and valuing and respecting Him as their Lord, then they are setting themselves against God. If someone is choosing to betray His love and live in sin, God does not honor that person, nor that person's sin.

Learn to love what God loves and to hate what God hates. Honor what God honors, despise what God despises. Live by God's value system.

HOW WE ARE TO HONOR GOD

1. Honor God with your Worship

Worship is a reliant relationship with God. It is more than singing or lifting our hands. It is how we love Him, how we value Him.

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Psalms 66:2 Sing out the honor of His name, make His praise glorious

I Timothy 1:17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

I Timothy 6:16 "(God) who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."

Mark 7:6b "...This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. (7) And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Honor is an attitude of the heart, not simply an act of obedience. For example, I can tell my child to clean her room. She can obey me without honoring me. She can clean her room outwardly while inwardly having feelings of disrespect. Honor isn't just behavior; honor is an attitude of the heart.

God wants us to honor Him with our heart and with our lips. He wants us to live a life of loving worship, not merely sing songs to Him. He wants us to experience and celebrate the love we share with Him every moment of every day. He wants us to honor Him, value Him, with a life of worship.

2. Honor God by honoring His Word

Psalm 138:2b “For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

Psalm 86:11a “Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.”

Not my way, not my opinion, but YOUR WAY, O Lord. The Bible shows us God’s way.

3. Honor God with Holy Living

Matthew 13:45-46 “(45) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, (46) who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Why would someone sell all they have? They value what they are receiving. Why would you live in such a way that your life was spent on holiness? Because you value the presence of God in your life.

I Cor. 6:20 “For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Hebrews 12:9 respect for fathers that corrected us, live in subjection to the Lord...

Hebrews 13:18 “...in all things desiring to live honorably.”

II Cor. 9:13 through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.”

4. Honor God through Your Giving

Proverbs 3:9 “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.”

Tithe is our worship. Tithe to the storehouse – the place where you are fed. Tithe isn’t for you to choose what you do with it – or to spend on yourself. It belongs to God for the operation of His church. Saying this not to make people feel condemned if they don’t give God His portion, but we are saying this because we know this is a command of God and blessings follow obedience.

Not just money – whatever is valuable to us – our treasure, our talents, our touch, our time.

5. Honor God by honoring Yourself

I Thessalonians 4:4 “Each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.

Honor God by honoring yourself. We can tell whether someone respects themselves by the way they behave, the way they talk, the way they dress.

The enemy wants us to disrespect ourselves. He doesn't want us to know the value we have as a son or daughter of God. If we know who we are, there's no stopping us! If we don't know our value, he already has us defeated. Our value comes from knowing God. If we don't know our worth in Christ, the enemy will try to get us to search for our significance in other ways.

If someone tries to treat us disrespectfully, we can say, “I'm worth more than that.” Illustration: Antique Roadshow. People bring in items to see if they have any worth. The value of something is shown by the price someone is willing to pay for it. What is your value? People see their value in how people treat them. If a pretty girl isn't taught her real value, she may see her value in the way boys give her attention. If an athletic boy isn't taught his real value, he may see his only value in winning. If children are yelled at with anger, they won't value themselves. They won't rise up and become something great if someone doesn't show them who they are and treat them with respect.

The way God sees us – glasses on National Treasure. Saw something that others didn't see.

People treat you the way you let them know they can treat you.

HONOR INFLUENCES

Things that have influenced our value system.

1. The World

- Look at the way political parties treat one another. Look at the way the media speaks about leaders in their position. Look at how people talk about our president.
- Look at the entertainment industry. Observe what we allow ourselves to watch on television or in movies. Look at what we see in magazines and advertisements. Look at the music we listen to.

This week take notice at how people treat one another in movies or television shows. Take a look at what our children are watching and ask yourself, “Is this program showing children to respect and trust authority?”

Whether we realize it or not, we become what we behold. Don't think, “Oh, its just a movie.” If you want the power of God in your life, guard your heart and mind to what you download into it.

2. Family

Perhaps your parents did not honor one another. Parents did not honor the children. Parents did not set a standard for children to honor them or other authority. Parents did not have consequences for children to honor other siblings or friends.

A child will learn one or the other. Either they will learn to honor or they will learn to dishonor. They will either learn to yield their will to God or they will be taught that they have a right to do whatever they want.

We can renew our thinking and change our hearts when we know God and begin to develop in Him. It is a process of being transformed into His image. Many people don't even recognize how dishonorable they are, thinking it is normal to do what they want, say what they want and think what they want.

3. Others

If we don't know who we are, we will use people like mirrors, looking to them to reflect back to us what our value is. How people treat us at school, in our family, in friendships, in the workplace, etc.

How have people treated you? Have you allowed that to influence how you view yourself? How does that line up with what God thinks of you?

4. Past experiences

Some have been hurt by past leaders at home, school, work and even in church. You may not even realize that your distrust of a current leader could be coming from the hurt of someone in the past.

Some have been through disappointment and blame God for their hurt. They want to believe God, but can't.

Some have been hurt by another individual. In a past marriage, in a business partnership, in a ministry. Some have been manipulated and used. Some have been stolen from. Some have been lied to. Some have even gone through sexual, physical or verbal abuse.

Some past wounds need forgiveness and healings. Some are healed but there is still distrust and dishonor of others in the heart. God wants to restore.

HOW TO HAVE HONOR IN YOUR LIFE

- Line your thinking up with the Word
- Look to God for restoration
- Pursue God for transformation
- Show honor to someone else

SERIES: HONOR
Part 2: Honoring Spiritual Authority

Illus: Bring in an item that has value to you. To other people, the item may or may not have value, but you give it value. You give it honor.

When you receive or want something to be part of your life, it is usually because you give value to it. Let's look at our main text:

Matthew 10:40-42 "(40) He who receives you receive Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (41) He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (42) And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall be no means lose his reward."

If you honor God, you will honor those He has sent

If you value someone in authority, you will receive them

and what they have to offer

Honor the ones that God honors. God honors positions of authority. God honors leaders. God honors His prophets; God honors men and women who are in positions of spiritual authority.

GOD HAS GIVEN US CHURCH LEADERS

Authority positions are established by God

Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

Ephesians 4:11-12

God's purpose for authority is to serve

When we value a spiritual authority as a gift from God, we will receive the ministry that they have to offer, and we will be the better for it. If we do not value someone in authority over us, we will not receive from their gifting. We will not grow as we should.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NLT "Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong. Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love."

Matthew 20:28 "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

John 13:1-17

- Authority positions are appointed by God; not all of them are godly.
Ezekiel 34:4

They feed themselves. They are either manipulative or controlling. They abuse their position to dominate you rather than to serve you. They use their influence to serve themselves. Self, self, self. Pride is in their character. They think their influence and position was give to them based on who they are, which is superior to others.

- They might make themselves rich by coercing you to give to God or the ministry – then put it in their pocket.
- They might use you to increase their popularity. They want to be known and respected. They can then use their influence to promote their own agenda.
- They might use women for their own pleasure – they are in a position to find a lonely or hurting woman and use her.

They use religious guilt, shame and fear to control you.

They sometimes are deceived themselves – they started off with good intentions, but pride entered into their hearts.

Self-serving leaders are usually not so obvious. Deceptive. They look good, sound good, smell good, - they can preach the word, they can even learn how to tap into the anointing and use it to promote themselves, they can be great administrators, great inspirational speakers and motivators.

Once they are confident of their control, they will dominate you, even using anger or threats to keep you under their thumb.

They use God as their back up – if you fear God, you will do what I say. Dangerous. Read entire chapter of Ezekiel 34 at home.

If you don't do what I say then God will be against you. You will open up the door to trouble. No one wants that, so they obey.

If you are not controllable, they don't want you. "Don't let the door hit you on your way out."

It is wrong. It is abusive.

God is patient and merciful. However, eventually God will remove His blessing and His anointing from an evil leader. Their pride will be humbled.

Paul makes it very clear that you are to be careful who you submit yourself to in the faith. If a spiritual authority is teaching wrong doctrine or abusing their position, you are to stay away from them. Our love for God has to be greater than our love for a leader.

I Timothy 6:3-5

"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, (4) he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, (5) useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself."

If you love me, and you see me abusing people as a leader, you had better tell me. I do not want to have to give an account to God for hurting His people. Amazing how people will love their abuser and want to remain with them and defend them. Do you want to obey God or obey men?

- God wants your leaders to care for you.
Jeremiah 3:15

A true shepherd will love you.
A true shepherd will want to see you reach your potential.
A true shepherd will feed you.
A true shepherd will care for you.
A true shepherd will protect you.

Leaders are human. They can make a wrong choice. You may need to forgive a leader. Remember, they represent God, but they are not God. They shouldn't be expected to be perfect. If someone has disappointed you, you may reject them as a leader, but you should not reject God

I Samuel 24:4-6; I Samuel 26:8-9

PURPOSE FOR HONORING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

When you honor leadership, you are honoring God
because God has placed them in position as His representatives.

When you honor leadership, vision can be accomplished

When you honor leadership, there is unity

When you honor leadership, there is power. (anointing)

When you honor leadership, there is freedom

When you honor leadership, there are blessings

VALUE THE ANOINTING OF GOD

God anoints His leaders to minister to you.

Mark 6:3-6

Because the people of Nazareth did not honor Him, Jesus was unable to do many miracles for them.

Familiarity breeds contempt. The people in Nazareth knew Jesus – they watched Him grow up. They knew His family. They knew His father as a carpenter.

Be careful what you treat as common

Honor

The Israelites got used to manna. They began to despise it. They took it “for granted.”

Authority can go to a couple of extremes. Some leaders want to be respected so they become like a military leader and demand compliance. Others want to be respected so they try to be your buddy to get you to work with them. A true leader is like a good parent. They love you and want to know you, but they also give you instruction and expect you to follow their direction.

Extremes

Authority that is based on control.

Demanding. Domineering. Self-centered. Shows up in the way they ask for money. In the way they treat their subordinates.

Authority that is based on friendship. It won't accomplish much for the kingdom if the one in authority is treated as common.

If you dishonor a leader, you dishonor God.

II Kings 2:23-24

God sees the heart. He sees what is done in public. He also sees what is done in private. He knows the thoughts of our mind and the attitude of our heart.

God will allow us to go through situations of difficulty to bring our faults to the surface, intending to reveal it to us so that it can be dealt with.

If you receive a prophet, you will receive a prophet's reward.

II Kings 4:8-17

Receive what a spiritual leader has to offer.

If you honor the anointing, you will experience the anointing.

Matthew 8:5-10, 13

Honor God by honoring His leaders. When you do, you will receive from the anointing on their lives.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON GOD

Honor is an attitude of the heart

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”

SERIES: HONOR
Part 3: Honoring Civil Authority

Matthew 10:40-42

“(40) He who receives you receive Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (41) He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. (42) And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

To honor is to value

Value God and receive Him. Value authority and receive them. Value peers and receive them. Value subordinates and receive them. Receive them and receive what they have to offer you. Receive their reward.

The authority that you have comes from God, therefore when I honor you I honor God. If I dishonor you, I would be dishonoring God who placed you in authority in my life.

GOD HONORS CIVIL AUTHORITY

Romans 13:1-7

Politicians are God’s servants
Proverbs 21:1

Not all authority is godly

This was written about 56 AD when Nero was in power. Nero would stick a stake in you and set you on fire. Look to God when you serve a man.

Subject means to bring yourself under

Honor leaders for the position they are in

I Timothy 6:1 “Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.”

Pay your taxes and be appreciative for the country that you live in.
Matthew 22:21; Matthew 17:24-27

BENEFITS OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

1. God can accomplish a corporate vision *Exodus 18:21*

If a leader does not have a team that will respect him or her, they will not be able to go the same direction. David and Absalom.

Your support strengthens your leader. A lack of support is a burden to a leader. Your support stimulates increase. A lack of support hinders expansion.

Moses – could not take the original group into the Promised Land. It had to be the second generation. The first group was not supportive of the vision.

2. Your quality of life can be improved

I Timothy 2:1-2 “(1) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

Acts 16:25-

Paul and Silas honored God in jail through singing songs to worship Him. The other prisoners were listening to them. There is an earthquake, but Paul and the other prisoners did not leave. The civil authority saw their reference for him and received Christ.

3. You can increase your effectiveness *I Peter 2:13-17*

Joseph increased his effectiveness. He submitted himself to his authority – Potiphar, the jail, Pharaoh.

GOD HONORS WORK AUTHORITY

1. Your work is done for the Lord

Ephesians 6:5-8

You can honor the Lord by respecting and serving your authority

Colossians 3:17 “whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Titus 2:9-10 “(9) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

When you honor your boss, you are honoring the Lord. When you dishonor your boss, you are dishonoring the Lord who placed that authority in your life.

2. Submission isn't always easy

I Peter 2:18-25

Don't be so quick to quit your job just because it might be difficult or because you disagree. Be loyal. Die to self and know the life and glory of God.

3. The only time not to comply is if your leader asks you to sin

Daniel 3:16-18

God has a higher rank than any other earthly authority. In Daniel 3, the men said that God was able to deliver them, but even if He didn't, they would still not sin against God. God did deliver them.

LOCATE YOUR HEART

Do you value the position that your employer has in your life?

Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest)

God is around when no one else watching.

 1. You do what you are asked to do.

Suggestions are good and should be welcomed, but some people just have issues with being told what to do. Some would rather put emphasis on something else that they've done rather than what was asked of them, trying to give value to something else because they've dishonored what you've asked of them. Could be trust issues (defensive, guarded), or could just be a competitive controlling spirit. Whatever you tell them to do, they want to do it another way – always in opposition. A good leader needs discernment – do I need to appreciate their thinking that is outside of the box or is this person setting themselves in opposition to me?

Do you pay attention to what your leader is saying? Do you listen for the details? Do you interrupt or do most of the talking? Do you have your leader's vision?

 2. You go the extra mile.

Do you do more than what you are asked to do? Do you see needs and fill them? Do you give your best? Do you have a high standard for excellence?

 3. You take the initiative.

Do you try to anticipate what would be a blessing to your leader? When you are done with a project do you look for more work to do?

___ 4. You show up on time.

Are you on time for appointments and deadlines? Do you take long lunches? Do you leave early when there is still work that needs to be done?

___ 5. You never use company time or resources for personal use.

Do you use the internet to check your email or surf for personal interest? Do you run personal errands when you are on the clock? Do you make personal phone calls? Have you used office equipment to make your own copies or print your own materials? Have you taken things home from work?

___ 6. You work well with others.

Are you focused more on yourself or the team? Does it matter to you who gets the credit? Do you communicate with your leaders and your team?

___ 7. You have your leader's back.

Do you try to alleviate tasks for your employer? Do you watch their back? Do you try to protect them so they don't get overwhelmed?

Do you communicate with your leaders? Do you submit your ideas? Do you ask for approval on the things they've asked you to get approval on? Do you resent being accountable? Do you resent your leader's involvement?

___ 8. You always speak positively.

Do you speak positively or negatively about your employer? Do you question their decisions in front of others? Do you make jokes about your leaders?

Ecclesiastes 10:20 "Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice and a bird in flight may tell the matter." In other words, it might be repeated. Above all else, know that God hears you.

___ 9. You never complain.

Titus 2:9-10 "Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

What do you say about your responsibilities? Do you make excuses? Do you inappropriately share your opinion? What do you speak about with a close friend or family member when no one else is around?

___ 10. You stick with something until it's done.

Diligence is a good character quality for an employee. Do you work hard and quickly to get a job done?

HONOR ATTRACTS HONOR

Honor is an attitude of the heart.

Whom do you associate with?

Birds of a feather flock together. People that have issues with authority will somehow find each other. It's really not about the issues- it's about the heart of the people who have difficulty with yielding themselves to others. They can be negative, critical and complaining.

People of honor also will also flock together. They like to talk about vision. They enjoy what they do and the people that they work with. They are usually positive and supportive, submitting ideas for improvement and growth.

Leaders will choose people on their team that have honor for authority and that show respect for others. Someone with honor and integrity will many times be chosen over someone who is perhaps more qualified for a position, but lacks honor and integrity.

Honor reflects how you esteem God

People of honor are people of faith. Not only do you know who God is, you place Him in a position of authority in your life. You make Him Lord.

Honor reflects how you esteem yourself

People who show honor are people who know they themselves have honor, they have value - they have significance.

We have an enemy, who from childhood, is trying to get us to believe that we aren't significant. He can cause and use past experiences to damage the way we think and receive others - the way a man treated us, a woman treated us, a parent treated us, a teacher treated us – people in authority.

Once you have a revelation of who you are, people might think that you're arrogant, but you're confident. Instead of tearing you down, they themselves need to come up. Don't criticize the pastor, instead come up with him. Don't criticize the boss, get on the team, support and build him or her up. Don't joke about the politician, go up in the spirit and pray God's will be done.

Honor reflects how you esteem others

Who did Jesus value? He valued the disciples. He valued the sick. He valued the sinners. He valued us all so much that He made the decision to go to the cross for us.

Honor God and God will honor you. *1 Samuel 2:30*

Locate your heart toward your authority. If you have trust issues, our church leaders love you and want you around. If you are guarded, we're not walking away from you. God wants you healed and restored, and so do we.

SERIES: HONOR
Part 4: Honoring Peers and Subordinates

Matthew 10:40-42

“(40) He who receives you receive Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. (41) He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. (42) And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

To honor is to value

1. Prophet: Receive those in authority
2. Righteous man: Receive those who are peers
3. Little ones: Receive those who are subordinate to you

HONORING OUR PEERS

Our peers are those people that we do not have authority over, not do they have authority over us. We are on the same level of authority.

Respect to one another. Pastor to pastor. Business owner to business owner. Neighbor to neighbor. How we behave should be in consideration of the other person.

It would be wrong of me as a pastor to try to steal people away from another church. Why? I don’t want to do anything that would show dishonor or disrespect to another person.

Romans 12:9-10 “(9) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (10) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

1. Honor with hypocrisy is not honor at all.

Hypocrisy is “the concealment of one’s real character of motives.” Webster.

We shouldn’t pretend to respect someone in front of them and then disrespect them by talking negatively about them when they’re not around.

Honor with hypocrisy is no honor at all.

That doesn’t mean you have to slap someone upside the head by being so blunt or straightforward with them either. Think of them and how they will receive what you have to say, but don’t hide your true feelings.

2. Honor will lift others up.

Verse 10 give preference. Let them go first. Let them go higher
When you esteem someone, you truly want to honor them, to show them that you value you. You can do this by putting someone else's interests ahead of yours. This can go from large displays of letting someone else have the opportunity to take the project at work to someone as simple as opening a door or letting someone go in front of you in line.

Help each other out.

Philippians 2:1-4

3. When we honor people, we are honoring God.

If we honor God, we will honor what He honors. God honors, values, respects people, His creation. If we honor God, we will honor people.

Honor is a matter of the heart. God sees into your heart. He knows your true feelings. He knows what you are thinking about others. He hears what you are saying in secret.

Matthew 25:40 "...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

This verse is describing assisting the Jews going through the tribulation, but the truth found in it applies to us today. When we honor what belongs to Him, we are honoring Him.

I John 4:20 "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

Fellowship is valuable.

HONORING OUR SUBORDINATES

I Peter 5:2-4

There is a lot of emphasis on honoring those in authority in the church, the workplace, the home, and the government. There is also scriptural attention given to honoring those underneath our authority. We should love them, value them, esteem them.

When we honor those underneath us, we receive their reward. We receive the gift that God has given to them. If we dishonor them, if we refuse to see their value, we will miss out on what they have to offer.

Jesus is our example on how to treat others.

Ways to show someone that we value them?

1. We can give them gifts.

When should want to be able to pay employees well, not with crumbs that are left over. If we value something we will give our money to it. Where the heart is, there the treasure is also.

Matthew 6:21 "For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Treasure, value.

Give your staff a Christmas bonus. Grunwald's Christmas Vacation. It hurt when he didn't get that bonus.

2. We can give them our time.

What you value is what you give your time to. Take them out to lunch. Call them. Email them. Include them in meetings. Listen to their ideas or concerns. Some leaders will cut you off and not care one iota about you. They just want you to do your job and not be a bother to them.

Get away from the phones, computers and television and spend time with your family and friends. You don't have to spend a lot of money. They want you more than they want things from you. Don't do it because you have to, but because you want to.

3. We can give them encouraging words

Show them they are somebody worth blessing. They are somebody worth getting to know. They are somebody worth dying for. Words can go a long way.

4. We can show them with actions.

Honor them publicly. Give them credit for the work they do.

Do something for them. Help them with a project.

5. We can give them opportunity

We have influence, power, resources, connections, etc. We are the gatekeeper as to who we will use and promote and who we will not use or promote.

One thing we've seen in our experience is that God loves to choose someone who is considered an underdog and use their humble heart over someone who thinks they are all that and has gotten into pride without even realizing it.

Honor

Beware of dishonorable people. You give them pearls and they turn and trample you to pieces. Beware of people who have not found contentment in being whole in Jesus Christ. They will always be pulling on you to feel valuable. You aren't Jesus. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to give them all your attention. They want special treatment. They want you to value them more than they value anyone else.

Some people think more highly of themselves than they ought to. They think they should be given preference over another team member. Look for the humble. Look for someone that you would want representing you. You can't show favoritism. Children in a loving home know that they are loved for who they are without feelings of competitiveness. They are free to complement each other, rather than compete with one another.

Remember that people belong to God.

How does He want them to be treated? How does God treat you? Treat others the same way.

Look to Jesus. Jesus honored the disciples. Not only did He pour His love on them, He also corrected them. Because of the love that they shared, we are here today.

HONORING OTHERS

We should display honor the people that God gives value to.

This could be people that work for you. This could be people who are younger than you. This could be people who don't have as much money as you. This could be people who don't have as much talent as you. This could be for an ethnic race that is a minority in this country. This could be someone of a different faith. This could be someone that might be struggling with sin. This could be someone who has a sickness. This could be someone who struggles with self-esteem.

A person of honor realizes that God is the one who puts true value on people.

Just because you were born into a good family or a good environment, does not mean that we're better than someone else. Just because we had a good education the training to get a good job doesn't mean that we're superior to someone who doesn't have the knowledge or confidence to get the same job that we have.

We have to be careful that we don't get into pride. We have to be careful when we're blessed that we don't look down on people that don't have it as good as we have it, thinking that we put our self into the place of blessing. Sometimes people don't even realize that we're doing it. We get accustomed to our surroundings. Jesus associated with the lowly. He wasn't ashamed to call us brethren.

In God's eyes, the highest place that we can bring ourselves to is still far beneath Him. The earth is His footstool. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord. God can't humble you. You have to choose to do it and act on it. I'm going to get off my high horse. You don't have to come to me because I'm so important. I'm going to where you are. I'm coming after you.

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord ... and He will lift you up.

1. Those who are poor.

Proverbs 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy."

2. Those who are younger

I Timothy 4:12 "Let no one despise your youth..."

The word "despise" is the opposite of honor. It means that you aren't giving any value or esteem.

Matthew 18:6

3. Those who are older

I Peter 5:5-6 "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders..."

4. Those who are different.

Different race.

Acts 10:34-35 "(34) Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. (35) But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'"

When you accept or receive something, you value it.

Different gender.

John 4:27 couldn't believe that Jesus was talking to a woman (and a Samaritan).

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

Acts 10 go to the Gentiles

5. Those who are not first

In a capitalist society, we put more value on the ones who are the best at what they do. However, God values each part of the body.

I Cor. 12:24b

6. Those who have failed.

Romans 5:8 "...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Value is determined by the price that is paid.

Honor

God gave us value when He sent His Son to die for us – every one of us. He died for those of us who have been brought up to live a disciplined life. He died for those of us who have been abused. He died for those of us who have been addicted. He died for those of us who have been to prison. The price is the same for each of us. The value is the same for each of us. We are God's children and He gives us high value. God puts high value on your spouse, your boss, your co-workers, your employees, your pastor, your friends, your neighbors, and your enemies.

Not with a pity, but with a respect. Let me show you that you have honor to God and to me. Give to children that were born into poverty. Not because we feel sorry for them and want to make ourselves feel better for all the money that we're spending on ourselves, but because we have come to realize and know that those children are just as valuable as our own children. Show these kids that you care. Let them see your face. Let them shake your hand. Show these children that people think they're somebody special. They're somebody worth blessing. They are somebody worth getting to know. They are somebody worth dying for.

HONOR TAKES HUMILITY

The more responsibility we have, the more submitted to God we should be. God, what do you want, and how do you want it done? Serve Him.

Don't just be a leader, but be like a father and love subordinates.

One day we will stand before God and we won't have the same ranking system that we have on the earth.

The greater your responsibilities, the bigger the sacrifice.

Mark 10:43-45

Military leaders – serve your unit. Yes, you give them instruction, but when in battle, you must be willing to do what it takes to protect them. You are the head of the spear. It can be tough to be a leader. It can be tough to carry the weight of the success of your unit on your shoulders. You are ultimately responsible for accomplishing your mission.

Parents, Husbands, Business owners, Pastors, Church Leaders, Government officials.

We serve God when we lead people in our families, at work at church in community.... When people criticize you as a leader, let God protect you. Don't develop a hard shell so that you don't feel the needs of people anymore.

When people rebel against you and don't follow your leadership, go to God. When you feel betrayed, go to God. He is the one we represent. If you miss it, repent and go on.

Leaders have to die to self. Lay down control and serve people the way God instructs us. The more we surrender to God, the more joy and peace and anointing we will experience.

Pray for your leaders. Unless you have been in their shoes, you have no idea what pressures they feel, what responsibilities they bear, what attacks or temptations they might be facing.

SERIES: HONOR
Part 5: Honor in the Home

Note: Words in purple are on slides/outlines.

HONORING GOD IN THE HOME

- The idea of family came from God.

God's plan for the family started with Adam and Eve. From the marriage union, God instructed Adam and Eve to multiply and have children.

We understand that today there are many marriages and families that have been torn apart by divorce, separation, or death. We know that people have gone through tremendous pain in relationships. We know that there are those in our city and world who struggle with their sexual identity. God cares. God also wants us to know that His plan, even when we sometimes fall short of it, is still what is best for us. God is able to heal and restore hurting families or families that have been blended through divorce and remarriage; however, we need to do it His way.

- For families to work, God established order.

Anytime you get two people together, you will you will have two differences of opinion at some point. There needs to be a leader, or there will be strife and confusion. Because God is a God of order, peace, joy, and love, He placed an order system in the home. God established for men to be leaders in their homes.

He placed the wife to be by his side and to rule and reign in life next to him. If he is the president of the home, she is the vice president. She is to assist her husband. They are a leadership team. Let's clarify. Men are to be leaders in the home, of their families. Women are to assist them in the home. This is not to say that women cannot be heads of companies, leaders in government, etc. Throughout the Bible women have been in leadership – over nations, over churches, over their own businesses (Lydia).

Some people in the world today think the idea of men leading their homes is old fashioned, chauvinistic, and somewhat backwards. However, the idea comes from our Creator, and we should trust Him that He has our best interests at heart.

Some husbands and fathers have not been good examples to us of what God intended their role to be. We cannot let these bad examples or painful experiences to keep us guarded from God's best for us. When we honor one another for the positions we have in the home, God will honor us. Our home will be in peace. If a leader is an example of Christ, loving and caring for their own; it is a blessing. If the wife loves and cares for her family, it is a blessing.

- If we honor God, we will honor each other

There should be mutual respect for one another in the home. There should be honor between the husband and the wife, as well as between the parents and the children. We value one another and show one another respect.

What if someone in our home does not show us respect? The normal response is to reciprocate the disrespect. However, if we honor God, we will honor one another based on His love, not based on our emotion. Honor will love, honor will correct, honor will stand uprightly, honor will forgive, honor will reconcile.

HONORING THE WIFE

To honor means to value, to esteem. Husbands are to show their wives that they have high value and worth in their lives.

1. God gave man a capable assistant.

Genesis 2:18; Malachi 2:14b

The word in Genesis 2:18 has also been translated “comparable,” which means suitable, capable. The woman was created to be a capable helper, someone qualified to assist him. Someone with intelligence, skills, stamina. She is someone who will notice the details, someone will add a different perspective.

He created Adam, but he fashioned Eve from Adam’s rib. Adam was made in the image of God. When God fashioned Eve, some of God’s characteristics were seen in greater measure in the woman, others were seen in greater measure in the man. For example, women, mothers of our children, are typically more nurturing. That is a characteristic of God. Men are usually physically stronger than women, to protect the mother and the children. There are many other characteristics that we see in one another. When we work together, valuing our differences and similarities, we do well.

2. A wise leader will value their helper.

Philippians 1:27

It is wise to value a wife’s input, ideas, suggestions, intelligence, reasoning, talents, gifts, and feelings. It is helpful to lean on a wife when she honors her husband. It is more difficult for a man to include his wife in his life if she is disrespectful. If a wife is critical or nagging, it is natural for a man to put up a guard to protect himself. However, someone needs to break a cycle of dishonor.

If you don’t value your spouse, you are not valuing part of the team that will help you accomplish your vision. God is in her. God has given her talents, skills, education, persuasion, anointing, etc. If you value her, you will include her in your decisions, you will give her opportunity to participate, you will speak kindly to her, you will want to spend time with her, you will celebrate your victories together, you will share your sorrows with her, you will do things to make your home a better place to live, etc. When you speak unkindly to her, you are showing her that you do not value her. You leave her feeling hurt and longing to be loved and valued.

3. If you do not honor her, you will be hindered

1 Peter 3:7 “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker (physically) vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Your prayers will be hindered, which hinders you from accomplishing the purpose that God has for you. Why? Because God values her. If you do not treat her respectfully, if you treat her wrongfully, God will take offense against you. The same is true of her respect for you.

1 Samuel 2:30 God honors those who honor Him. God honors those who value what He values. If you dishonor your wife, God will dishonor you.

Also, if you recognize what you have next to you, you will benefit from their support of you. A woman is intended to be in relationship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit, walking in the authority given to her through the name of Jesus, working signs, wonders and miracles, educated, trained, skilled, and ... in love with you. Do you want to be blessed? Do you want to be successful? Do you want to fulfill your destiny? Honor your wife.

4. If you love her, then you will lead her.

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands love your wives, as Christ love the church and gave Himself up for her.

If you value her, you will take your place and lead her. Some men don't know how to lead a home. Maybe they didn't have a good example growing up or maybe they're not sure what their position is.

Some men find it easier to lay back and let their wife run the home. Leadership involves responsibility. Some people don't want the responsibility. They're lazy.

Some men struggle with a wife who wants to be in control. She wants control of him, their home, their children and sometimes their business or ministry. This isn't talking about a woman who is strong and involved, this is talking about a woman who wants to go a different direction than her husband and expects him to follow her.

Some men have a manipulative wife. She wants what she wants when she wants it. Be careful because this can be subtle and hard to recognize. But there are wives who will keep a man from fulfilling his purpose because her focus is on herself and not on God. She not only wants her husband's attention; she wants to pull him away from what God wants him to be doing. She may use her influence of his affection to wile him to do what she wants. She may play an innocent victim to play on his pity. She may whine and complain. She may nag and demand what she wants. She may refuse to participate in activities, withholding her support, because she is centered in on herself rather than on him and his calling. She wants his time, she wants his attention, she wants his efforts. She knows he loves her, and she uses that to maintain control. She's his Delilah, cutting away at his strength, his calling and his purpose. He spends his life trying to make her happy, but he is left feeling unfulfilled and dissatisfied.

HONORING THE HUSBAND

Note: Good idea to have a woman speak on this section. If the pastor is a man, we suggest the pastor's wife.

Joke: When God created the woman, he looked at Adam and said, "Ohh... I can do better than that." And women, here we are! Just kidding!

1. Know your identity.

Before you can *be* who you are, you have to *know* who you are.

Before you can expect other people to respect you, you have to respect yourself. You have to know your value.

There are women who have misplaced value. They listen to the world and think their value is in their appearance or their sexuality or their career or their material things or their children or something else RATHER THAN in being a daughter of the Creator of the universe, a container of the Holy Spirit, and an efficient, capable woman who is equipped to fulfill her purpose.

Our sense of worth needs to come from God, our designer. He is the only one that can complete us. If we don't get our identity from God, many times we will look to others to make us feel significant. However, people cannot fulfill us – their efforts are like a drop in a desert. They can confirm it, but they cannot establish or replace it. Our identity must come from God and His Word.

Proverbs 31:10

Look at this word virtuous (chayil 2428). This word is translated in other places as "strong, powerful, efficient, wealthy." This is the beginning of an acrostic poem, meaning that each verse begins with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. In each of these verses we see a strong, capable, hardworking woman. Who can find one like this? Her worth, her value, her honor is more than rubies.

Women are not created to be weaklings. Women are created to be dependent upon the Lord and to stand in the strength of His might. Women were told to rule or dominate the earth together with the men (Genesis 1). Women, like men, can receive a new nature and walk in God's authority as a representative of the person and the name of Jesus Christ. Women were filled with the Holy Spirit so they could execute the will of God with His power. We were instructed, like men, to heal the sick, cast out devils, preach the Gospel and operate in the gifts of the Spirit. Know it. Get it from HIM. Let God complete you, not a man, not a husband or a boyfriend, not a mother or girlfriend, not an employer, not a pastor...GOD. Once you know it, no one can take it away from you.

2. Meekness is being strong and supportive.

I Peter 3:1-6

Vs. 4 gentle (4239 praos)- meek, which means a “controlled strength.”

Quiet(2272 hesuchios) –Is God telling women to be quiet? We know that can't be right – it goes against our nature. It means “tranquility arising from within” Also translated peaceable “to be still.” This is a quality that God has given women to remain calm and settled.

Your husband wants you to be strong, someone he respects, but he also wants you to be meek, meaning he can trust you to use your strength to support him, not to fight him. You are a worthy opponent. He wants you to compliment him, not to compete with him. Power struggles. Meekness is controlled strength. It is precious to God in all of us.

Illus – a pillar. Women are like pillars. A pillar is supportive, but it also should be strong. How many of you would want a pillar or a column in your house to be weak?

Your husband would like your help. He would like to be able to lean on you. He can't do that if you are not spiritually fit and ruled by your emotions. He has the weight of the family's wellbeing is on his shoulders. You are to rule and reign your family together, with him being at the helm. He needs your support.

That does not mean that we don't have emotions or that we don't have times when we feel tired. But on the inside, we're strong in the Lord and our spirit is in control, not our emotions and not our hormones.

Why it can be difficult to yield to a husband:

- We're afraid of being hurt.
- We're afraid of being controlled.
- We're not yielding to God.
- We don't have the knowledge.
- We're being lazy.

3. A smart team player will build up their leader.

Proverbs 14:1

If your team loses, you lose. If your team wins, you win.
If your husband succeeds, you succeed. Build him up. Help him.

Don't tear him down with critical words. Don't tear him down with damaging actions. Don't tear him down with gossip. Build him up with encouraging words. Build him up with loving actions. Build him up in front of other people. Spend in a way to increase your home. Manage your household in a way to run it well.

Pray for him. Be aware of reality in the spirit. Don't just see things from your point of view, see things from God's point of view. Be led by the Holy Spirit.

4. There is joy in submission.

Ephesians 5:33b amp "...Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she noticed him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she differs to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]."

When you love him, you want to honor him. You want to respect him. You want to assist him. Celebrate joys together, because you had a part in that.

It can't be based on him. He is not perfect. He can hurt your feelings and then not even realize that he did it. He can make a selfish decision.

It is easier to support him when he recognizes that you are there to benefit him, to increase him, to expand him, to support him, to lift him up.

If we're basing our attitudes on him, we're in trouble. When he doesn't measure up, we can get resentful if we're not careful. Our choice to honor is based on honoring God. God, I'm honoring my husband because I honor God. I'm choosing to see the bigger picture. My hope is in God. My trust is in God. My life is in God - not my husband.

If we retaliate instead of respond with love, it will make things worse in the long run. You may feel like you've won the battle, but you could easily lose the war. If you do not support or encourage your husband, he might be reluctant to put his trust in you again.

He wants you to be by his side and know him more intimately than anyone else. He cares what you think. He wants your help. If he does not feel your support, your love, your assistance, it leaves him unsupported. Do things for him, do things with him, be intimate with him. Treat him like the king he is, and he will be more likely to treat you like the queen you are.

HONORING CHILDREN

When you show your child that they have value, they will not accept anything less than what they deserve. They would not behave in a way that is less than the standard that they have for themselves. When they get to be teenagers they are less likely to get into a relationship with anyone that did not value them the way their parents did. Build them up, don't tear them down.

Also, it is important for children to see mom and dad honoring each other. Children love both of their parents. They love their mother and they love their father. There is security in a loving home. There is security when parents love each other. Children need to see you respect one another. Arguing in front of your children does two things. One, it steals their peace. Two, it teaches them to disrespect.

Children are imitators. Teach them to honor you by showing them that you honor them. You value them, you think they have significance, worth.

Ten Ways to Honor Your Children

1. Set standards

Kids want boundaries and attainable expectations. They want the security of knowing what you want from them. They want to know what to aim for and what is going to be pleasing to you.

2. Discipline and teach them

Give them the knowledge and the resources to succeed.

3. Communicate with kindness

Use honorable words, expressions and tone

4. Listen to them

If they are valuable to you, you will want to hear their thoughts and ideas, their concerns. Kids aren't dumb. They know if you are really listening to them or not. Get on their level, look into their eyes.

When they are teens, know when to communicate and when not to communicate. They are becoming more independent and starting to make their own decisions. They need space. They need privacy. However, there are times when you have to go past the tough exterior and be persistent to know what is bothering them. There are times when even though it's all good, you need to pull away and have a serious discussion to go beyond the surface stuff. They deal with major stuff at this age. They're making career choices, relationship choices, they have pressures to participate in harmful activities, friends who are going through stuff, etc.

5. Give them your time

Both quantity and quality.

6. Share responsibility

If they are valuable, show them by giving them something to do that will contribute to the family. Let them have a part to play.

7. Tell them "I love you."

Don't assume they know it. Both mom and dad should verbalize their love.

8. Show them "I love you."

Actions speak louder than words. If you say you love them, but your actions are contrary, they will believe your actions.

9. Provide for them

They know you love them when you care for them and meet their needs (not their wants, but their needs). If you don't provide for them, they feel neglected and rejected. They feel abandoned and insecure. They don't have to have the best, but they need to see that you are doing all you can to meet their needs.

10. Protect them

Children need to feel secure in their home. It should be their haven. Teenagers may resent feeling restricted, but they also know that you care about them and want them to be safe. If they don't know it now, they'll know it later.

HONORING PARENTS

1. This is the first commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:2-3

God always gave consequences for disobedience AND rewards for obedience. If you want your children to obey you, remind them that they will have a good life by obedience. Not just from you, but from God.

This is the first commandment with a promise. When our children were young and we wanted them to obey us we would ask them, "What's the first commandment with a promise?"

Ephesians 6:1 tells fathers to honor their children.

2. Honor is seen in obedience and attitude.

Isaiah 1:19

Honor is more than obedience. You can obey someone without honoring them. Ask your child to pick up their room. They can be putting away their things and griping about it the whole time. That is obedience without honor.

3. You will not always obey your parents, but you will always honor.

Matthew 15:1-9

Even after we are grown and begin our own families (Genesis 2:24), we are still to honor our parents. We value them, esteem them, hold them in high regard. We are responsible to care for them as they get older. The decisions that we make for them can be difficult when it involves their health or mental condition, but whatever decisions we make, we make it from a heart that loves and cares for them.

YOUR HOME IS A HAVEN

God wants you and your children to know the security of His love. Home should be a harbor to find peace and rest. Home should not be a war zone. Home should not be a place that you avoid.

If God is dealing with you about honoring your spouse, and your kids – surrender that to Him. Ask Him to change your heart and to give you the tools to show honor to the people you love.

SERIES: HONOR
Part 6: Honoring What God Honors

I Samuel 2:30b "...Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

When we honor God, we value what He values.

Honor is not only about who we value, but *what* we value.

We should love what God loves and hate what God hates.

Romans 12:9b "...abhor what is evil and cling to what is good."

What we honor opens our heart to receive those things that we desire. If we value the things that God values, God will give us those desires. If we crave the wrong things, our heart will be open to receive the things that sin and the enemy has for us.

WHAT GOD LOVES

There are many things that God loves and values. Here are a few.

1. God values His Word

God puts value on His Word and the revelation of His Word. He values what is holy. His Word is holy.

Mark 4:24 (Amplified) And He said to them, 'Be careful what you are hearing. The measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you- and more besides will be given to you who hear.'

When you honor the Word by giving it your effort to study and meditate on it, you will receive from it. The same measure of what you put into it, you will receive out of it.

If you value and desire revelation of the Word of God, you will receive it. Be careful not to take the Word of God for granted or treat it lightly. Read it. Give time and attention to it.

2. God values His Spirit

God puts value on the Holy Spirit and His gifts. If you value the Holy Spirit and the anointing, you will receive the anointing. If you show honor or reverence for the things of the spirit, you will receive them. Treasure the anointing, or the power of God, and you will experience an increase in the anointing. If you treasure it, you will seek it. You will pursue God, wait on God (Ex 33), cry out to God for His Spirit to move in your life and in your ministry.

Honor

Jesus told His disciples it was better for Him to leave so that He could send the Holy Spirit. Jesus valued and honored the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 12:31-32 “(31) Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. (32) Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”

The more you value something, the more you receive from it. The more you value and honor and give place to the Holy Spirit, the more you will receive from Him. You can grow in the anointing.

I Corinthians 12 the gifts, or operations, of the Spirit are as HE wills, not as we will. We must be careful not to place a little value on the Holy Spirit and His gifts. We must be careful not to be ashamed of the Holy Spirit or try to hide Him or quiet Him from people who don't know about Him. The natural man will not understand the things of the spirit, and we want to reach them in a relevant way. However, there are people who need and long for the miracle working power of God in their lives. We must learn to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He knows what to do and when to do it.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity; He is God. That means we are to follow His direction – not expect Him to follow our direction. He is here to help us to fulfill God's will, but He is not our helper in the sense that He is our assistant. He is not our servant. We are His.

People who value the anointing, receive from the anointing. If a person is critical of a church, a pastor, a ministry or the move of the Holy Spirit, they become blind and deaf to the things of the spirit. If a person mocks what God is doing through the Holy Spirit or through one of His ministers, that person is bringing dishonor to their self.

Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Recognize when God is speaking to you. Be humble to receive from Him. He may speak to you in a way that you do not expect. He may speak to you through someone who is familiar. He may use someone who has failed or made a mistake in your eyes. He may use someone who is young, from another race or background or from the opposite gender. Recognize when it is God.

If you are talking to someone about the things of the spirit and they don't want to hear it, stop talking. If you cast your pearls before swine, they will turn and tear you to pieces. Pigs don't value pearls. There are carnally minded people who do not value spiritual things. If they don't value what you have to say, they won't receive it, they may even fight or criticize you for it. Prov. 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

God told Jeremiah not to despise small beginnings. Despise means, “to make light of, to regard as insignificant, to make nothing of, to disesteem.” Do not stop treasuring the moment you are in right now individually or collectively. God will increase you and God will increase His presence in this place. Let’s value where we are at right now. Let’s thank God for where we are at right now, believing Him that He will give us wisdom to fulfill the vision He has for us in the timing He has for us.

3. God values faith

Our faith is our dependency upon God. Not only do we trust and believe Him; but we also act on the reliance we have on God.

When we are in faith, we are living a lifestyle that is surrendered to Him. That doesn’t mean that we are perfect, but it does mean that we live in yielded humility and surrendered love. If we make a wrong choice, we should be quick to repent so we don’t suspend our intimacy with Him.

God sent Jesus to die for us. It pleases Him when we trust His love and accept the gift of His Son. He wants us to have faith in His Son (Matthew 21:37).

I Thessalonians 2:12 “that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

WHAT GOD HATES

There are many things that God hates. Here are a few.

1. Love of money

Luke 16:1-13 The Parable of the Unjust Steward

In verses 1-13 we read about Jesus telling a parable about an unjust steward. Instead of managing his master’s estate, the steward was spending his master’s money on himself. When the unjust steward was told he would be fired for misusing the money, the steward acted shrewdly by getting his master’s debtors to pay a portion of what was owed to bring some money in.

Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Honor is about what we value. What we value is what we are putting our trust in. If we trust God, we will serve Him. If we are serving money, we are serving ourselves. If we are not in faith, we are in sin.

This struck a chord with the Pharisees, preachers who were said to be lovers of money. Jesus turned to the Pharisees and told them that God knew their hearts.

He said they would try to justify their actions, but the truth was they loved and served money in the ministry rather than serving God and helping people. The same happens today. No one is above missing it. Surround yourself with people who will keep you on track.

Luke 16:15b "For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Money is esteemed highly among men. Serving ourselves and becoming self-sufficient is valuable to the world. This is an abomination to God. The pride and self-sufficiency of man is an abomination to God. He hates it. He does not highly esteem and value the work of a person who does not highly esteem and value Him.

The rich young ruler walked away from an opportunity to follow Christ. Jesus let him walk. What did he say? It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Its not because of the money – God created all the resources of the earth. It's because of the condition of the heart of someone who trusts in money. If God says to sell it all and give to the poor, would we do it?

God values the person who will serve Him, the person who will put their trust in Him. What you value is what you will serve. You cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 13:22 deceitfulness of riches choke the word so it was unfruitful.

Do we want to be a person that God values? We have to be willing to let Him have it all. It all belongs to Him and we are stewards of it. We are not to spend our money just the way we see fit, we need to manage the money the way the Lord directs us. And trust Him that He will take care of us.

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pieced themselves through with many sorrows."

The Bible says the love of money is the root of all evil. Why? Because at the root of all evil is self-sufficiency, when a person stops relying upon God and tries to depend upon themselves. Money is power to a lot of people. The opposite of self-sufficiency is faith. Faith is when we yield our lives to God, trusting His love to sustain our life.

You can be rich and please God by loving Him and serving Him with your money. The Bible says it is the love of money that God despises.

2. Love of fame

God wants us to value Him. If we crave the love and approval of others rather than the honor of God, we are living for self and control of our own lives. God alone is our source of life. God alone is the one who completes us. We do not need to have the adoration of others in order to know our worth or to gain influence in the world.

Honor

God does not want us to serve fame. People who serve fame will spend their energy trying to promote themselves. Does fame have value? Someone who is famous usually has influence and power to control their circumstances to benefit themselves.

There have been those who have wanted to use the glory that comes from God in order to bring attention to themselves.

Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira
Acts 12:23 King Herod

I Peter 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exult you in due time.”

God resists the proud.

If you serve God and are famous, you can look to God for a way to use your talents or skills or position to bless Him. It isn't the fame that is evil, it is the desire to have fame in order to rule our own lives that is wrong.

3. Love of sin

Anything that we love and value more than God is an idol in our life. It could be the love of pleasure. It could be anything that is impure. It could be impure sexual gratification of any kind. It could be lying, stealing, cheating, gossiping, etc. God hates sin. If you live for impure pleasure, your heart is in self-sufficiency.

I Samuel 2:22-30

Vs. 29 Eli honored his sons more than the Lord. His sons were sleeping with women at the church and being irreverent about their offerings to the Lord. Eli knew and did not punish his sons, the priests.

Revelation 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

WHAT MAKES YOU VALUABLE TO GOD

1. You always will have value as a child of God.

Isaiah 43:7 “Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

God made you – that gives you worth. It's like a Picasso painting. The painting has worth because of the artist who painted it. We have value because of WHO designed us. Everyone who He has made – red and yellow, black and white...male and female...young and old...rich and poor – everyone.

Honor

2. There is value in holy living.

Living a holy lifestyle is pleasing to God. He can become closer to the ones who are consecrated to Him.

II Tim. 2:21

3. There is value in your service to God.

What you do for God has value in the kingdom of God. If you love God, you will obey Him. You will serve Him.

John 12:26b "If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Loving one another, serving one another.

Conclusion

God honors those who honor Him. His honor can transform your life. If there is something in your life that is dishonorable, give it over to God. If you desire something that is dishonorable, let God change your heart through a process of renewing your mind. Don't try to change yourself without God's help. Don't try to change overnight. God is committed to you for the long haul. His power will change your desires and set you free from addictions. You can know the joy and freedom that comes from living together with God and working together with His Holy Spirit. Yield yourself to Him today.