

8 - Honor One Another
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GFC 11-8-2020

We are in a sermon series called Stronger Together. We've been preaching on the one-another commands of the Bible. We started out by teaching how we are members of one another. The Amplified Version of Romans 12:5 says:

We are parts one of another (mutually dependent on one another).

Then we taught on loving one another because love is the motivation to obey the one-another commands. The other one another commands are ways of expressing our love. They are the way we grow stronger together.

So far, we've also taught on greeting one another, showing affection to one another, having compassion for another, comforting one another, carrying one another's burdens and forgiving one another.

We live in a culture of offense where most people are easily offended and they find it difficult to forgive. We also live in a culture of dishonor. That's why my message today is Honor One Another. Romans 12:10 says:

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

The NIV says: *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

The Holman Bible says: *Outdo one another in showing honor.*

Unfortunately, things are much different today than when I was growing up. Back then, there was a culture of respect and honor.

Children honored parents.

Students honored teachers.

Husbands and wives honored each other.

Men held doors opened for women.

People said please and thank you.

People honored their leaders: pastors, policemen, and bosses.

I was taught to say, "Yes, sir" and "Yes, ma'am" to adults.

I called them Mr. or Mrs., not by their first name.

Now, our culture leans more toward disrespect.

Children talk back to their parents.

Students disrespect their teachers.

Employees disrespect their bosses.

Husbands and wives dishonor each other.

News-people disrespect the President of the U.S.

So do many Christians. I see way too many posts on Facebook disrespecting the President. You don't have to agree with Him but you do have to honor Him.

Dishonor is rampant in our society. I think it started when people started removing God from the culture. When you disrespect God, it will filter down to where you disrespect every other authority figure. To restore a culture of honor, we need to start by honoring God. God says in 1 Samuel 2:30

Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

How do we honor God? The prophet Malachi wrote to a culture that was dishonoring God. Malachi 1:6 says:

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due Me? If I am a master, where is the respect due Me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for My name."

God then rebukes the priests for allowing the people to offer less than acceptable worship and for not giving their tithes and offerings to God. They were unwilling worshippers and they were unwilling givers! They refused to give God their best worship and they refused to give God the tithes and offerings that belonged to Him. But they expected God to continue blessing them!

They were not treating God with honor. Lack of worshipping God and lack of giving to God are two of the biggest ways Christians dishonor God. Because the people of Israel dishonored God, He said in Malachi 2:2

"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor My name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor Me."

If we want to release the power of God in our lives:
 If we want to release the blessing of God in our lives:
 If we want to reverse the curse in our lives:
 We must begin by honoring God.

We need to make the things that are a priority to God a priority to us.
 We need to seek first His face and His kingdom.
 We need to return to honoring God.

And one way we honor God is by honoring people. We do that – not by seeking honor for ourselves, but by honoring others. Proverbs 25:27 says:

It is not honorable to seek one's own honor.

But God wants us to honor everyone else.

1 Peter 2:17 says: *Honor all people.*

What causes us to dishonor people? Familiarity can cause us to dishonor someone we know who occupies a position of honor: like a judge, teacher, parent, pastor or policeman. Because we know them so well – their humanity and weaknesses and flaws – we can be disrespectful.

Unfamiliarity can also cause us to dishonor someone we don't know who occupies a position of honor. We can think, "You don't know me and I don't know you, so who are you to judge me or tell me what to do."

Both of these extremes are wrong and both will hinder us in life. You see, there is supernatural power of honor. In fact, honor releases the power and blessing of God and lack of honor will quench the Spirit of God and the power of God. This happened to Jesus in His hometown where everyone knew Him. Mark 6:1-6 says:

Jesus left there and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed.

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given Him, that He even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Notice it says Jesus could not do any miracles there. Not would not, not did not, but could not. Jesus was not holding back. His miraculous power was restrained. Why? Because of unbelief and lack of honor.

We're all aware how lack of faith will hinder the power of God; so will lack of honor.

Lack of honor will restrain the power of God.

Honor will release the power of God.

Dishonor will quench God's blessings.

Honor releases the blessing of God.

When we speak rudely to our parents we hinder the power of God.

When we argue with our bosses we hinder the power of God.

When we disrespect those in authority over us – whether it's our parents, our pastor, or our President, we hinder the power of God.

Obviously, honor is important.

What is honor?

The biblical word for honor is time (tee-may'); which means to value, to esteem highly, to view as important, to respect. It also means money paid – that's where we get the word "honorarium."

The opposite of honor is dishonor. It means "to treat with disrespect, to treat as common or ordinary or unimportant; to not value."

The more we honor someone, the more we will treat them as someone we value and respect. That will be seen in our actions and words. The less we honor someone, the more we will treat them with disrespect. That will be seen in our actions and words.

God gave me three keys to honoring others:

1- Receive People for Who They Are Personhood

In Matthew 10:40-41 Jesus said:

He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the one who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward.

The word receive in the original language means "to accept; to not refuse." One of the ways we honor others is by receiving them, accepting them, believing everyone has something of value to offer.

We honor everyone by accepting them for who they are as a person: whether they are rich or poor, young or old, Democrat or Republican, red or yellow, black or white – all are precious in His sight!

When we honor people, the Bible says we receive a reward. We can't all be prophets, going around giving the word of God, but if we honor prophets by receiving them, we get their reward. What's the reward of a prophet? Hearing from God.

Are you beginning to see how important it is to honor others? It will result in reward, blessing, and favor from God.

2- Respect People for Where They Are Position

We must honor those God puts in authority. Romans 13:1-2 says:

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling

against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

We see several truths here:

- Every person is under some type of authority and will be until the day they die.
- Authority is a God-thing, not a man-made thing.
- God puts people in authority.
- By honoring authority, we honor God.
- By dishonoring authority, we dishonor God.

There are three main types of authorities:

1. Civil authorities – government leaders, police, teachers, bosses, etc.
2. Family authority – Parents and husbands
3. Church authority – pastors, elders, overseers

The Bible gives us clear teaching to honor and submit to those in authority. We know we should honor government authorities because 1 Peter 2:17 says: *Honor the king.*

We know we should honor our boss because 1 Timothy 6:1 says:

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor.

“Well – you don’t know my boss.” I don’t have to. 1 Peter 2:18 says:

Servants, be submissive to your masters and show them complete respect, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

I used to work in a Christian bookstore where the boss was anything but gentle. He was harsh. He did not treat employees very well and his policies were not customer friendly. Employees came up to me all the time very upset asking me, “How do you do it? How do you put up with him with a good attitude?” My response was always, “It’s his store. We work for him. As long as that is true, we must submit to him authority and speak well of him.” By the way, that’s one of the biggest ways we dishonor people: our words.

Anyway, as I said, our boss did not have customer friendly policies. He basically did not allow anything to be returned. If you bought it, it was yours. I’ll never forget the time when a pastor came in wanting to return some music he did not like. I told him I was sorry, but he could not return it.

He argued with me every way he could and I told him I could not do it because of store policy. This got him even more upset. He would not give up until I told him: “Sir, you are in a place of authority in your church. Do you teach your people

about submitting to authority? If this were my store, I would let you return this product. But it's not my store. I'm under the authority of the store owner. You tell me what you think I should do, submit to my authority or submit to you?" With that he had nothing to say.

By the way – I eventually became the manager of that store – the largest Christian store in the world. When I honored others, God honored me.

We are to submit to our bosses, the good ones and the bad ones. All authority is from God, but that doesn't mean all authority is godly.

Today in America, many people submit only if they agree with or respect the person. That's not a kingdom view. We all need to honor God by honoring those in places of authority.

Now let me give you this principle: you submit to an authority unless they want you to disobey and dishonor a higher authority. You should not obey an authority if they tell you to disobey God.

For example, in the book of Acts, the disciples were told by authorities to stop preaching about Jesus. The disciples responded in Acts 4:19

"Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him?"

So if a boss tells you to lie or cheat, you don't do it. You can be respectful. You can say something like, "Sir, I would never lie to you and I will never lie for you. I'm committed to the truth."

If a spouse tells you not to go to church or not to tithe, you must obey God, but you can still be respectful. Get the picture?

But far too often, we disrespect and dishonor authorities because: they didn't ask just right, or we don't respect them, we don't like them, we don't agree with their decision, they weren't nice to me, they're not a Christian, we can't receive from someone like them. These are all nothing but excuses.

We can't stand on judgment day and say the reason I didn't obey this authority is because they weren't a Christian or they were mean. That excuse will not work.

The Bible is full of people who honored evil or harsh authorities. David honored Saul even when he was trying to kill him. Jesus honored the authorities who eventually did kill him.

The way authorities treat us should not give us an excuse not to honor them. If we want to know how we honor God, we can look at how we honor authorities. This is especially true in the family.

Ephesians 6:1-3 says:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Many young people set off to pursue dreams only to run into destruction and the simple reason is they don't honor their parents. The Bible teaches if you want to live a long and prosperous life, you must honor your parents.

This is not just for little children. of us – no matter how old – need to honor our parents. Why? Because God promises when we honor our parents, He will reward us with longevity and prosperity. Don't think you can dishonor and disrespect your parents and be blessed. No parents are perfect – and some parents' behavior may not deserve respect – but if you want God's power in your life – choose to honor your parents anyway.

It's the same for husbands and wives. Ephesians 5:33 says:

Let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband (that she notices him, regards him, honors him).

1 Peter 3:7 says:

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

That's a scary verse, men. If we do not seek to understand our wives and if we do not honor them, our prayers will be hindered. Once again we see – lack of honor will hinder God's power.

3- Reward People for What They Do

Performance

I don't have time to talk about this today. I'll just give you one example of this from the Bible: rewarding pastors and elders in the church. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 says:

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Notice the context is about pay. The Bible is literally saying, those who rule well should be paid double.

We honor people when we pay them well for what they do.
 We honor people when we respect them for where they are.
 We honor people by receiving them for who they are.

Dishonor will quench God's blessings - Honor releases God's blessings.

And here we are crying out for God's power and blessing in our lives, but could it be that the very thing that is holding back our family, our career, our destiny and our full blessing from God is a lack of honor?

Husbands and wives, if you honor your spouse, you will see a greater measure of the power of God in your family.

Children, if you honor to your parents, you will see a greater measure of the power of God in your life.

Students, if you honor your teachers, you will see a greater measure of the power of God in your education.

Employee, if you honor your boss, you will see a greater measure of the power of God in our careers.

If we don't honor God and people, the power of God will not be released in our lives.

If we do honor God and people – it releases His supernatural power in our lives and we grow stronger together.

You get to choose. Choose to honor and choose the power.