

HONOR LESSON 1 What Honor is

This topic has become a lost characteristic among many people in the last few decades. As the world grows in darkness the upright characteristics that were once used even by pagans (in some regards) have begun to decline quickly. Honor is one of those characteristics. God's perspective of honor has not and will not change, like many other of His views.

Pastor Chris McMichael has a saying that rings true, "Christians should honor what God honors". Honor is taught throughout the Bible on many levels so let us examine what honor is in this lesson.

Honor Defined

Honor is defined as a good opinion, to revere, fix a value upon, to esteem, to find precious.

Elements of honor

One element of honor is humility. When a person humbles himself honor has an entrance into that person's life.

- **Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.**
Proverbs 18:12 KJV
- **The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.**
Proverbs 15:33 KJV
- **Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him.**
Proverbs 14:31 NLT

Humility allows a person to think of others in a manner that lifts up while not putting down self as worthless. Having this attitude allows the occasion for others to honor the humble person due to honor being given first through humility. Not only is humility an element of honor that assists in seeing other people or things as valuable but also allows others to honor the humble person. Humility gives and can receive honor.

Humility, when coupled with the fear of the Lord, brings riches, life, and honor (**Proverbs 22:4**). Christians should give honor and be honorable to receive the promises that begin with humility.

Wisdom is another element of honor. Wisdom begins with fear or reverence of the Lord (**Proverbs 1:7**) which reflects there is an association with God even if it is not one based

on salvation but only respect toward God. This can be noted from pagans of yesteryear not living by God's Word but still having respect or honor toward the things of God or the people of God. Christians should have the most honor for others and the appropriate things out of any group of people in the world due to their wisdom (fear/reverence) and love for God.

- **The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!**

Proverbs 3:35 NLT

- **Honor is no more associated with fools than snow with summer or rain with harvest.**

Proverbs 26:1 NLT

Honor should be present within the lives of Christians not as a necessity, but as a characteristic that is birthed from a relationship with Jesus Christ. Having the wisdom to know what deserves honor and what does not is an important key to life.

- **If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you.**

Proverbs 4:8 NLT

Fools can honor things by being taught to honor but they will not receive honor themselves due to the lack of wisdom missing from their life. Christians are to be wise and gentle/*innocent* (**Matthew 10:16**).

Self-control is an element of honor. This fruit of the Spirit *or* self-discipline gives and receives honor. In these last days, there is a major absence of self-control which explains part of the lack of honor.

- **Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor.**

1 Thessalonians 4:4 NLT

Self-control reflects maturity and wisdom which is worthy to have honor given to it when working with humility and wisdom. This element also allows holiness to be present when applied to the spiritual aspect of a person's life. It regulates emotions, desires, actions, and thoughts of a person's life when used correctly. Regulating thoughts include what deserves honor and what does not deserve honor.

- **⁷Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline (*self-control*). ⁹What you learn from them (*wisdom and self-control*) will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.**

Proverbs 1:7, 9 NLT

Self-control allows honor to be given, makes one worthy of receiving honor, and allows God to be honored through a lifestyle of holiness.

To live an honorable life the elements of humility, wisdom, and self-control must be present. Christians should have these elements working within their lives producing honor automatically. This is indicative when Christians lack honor in their life for others or are not worthy of honor themselves. One must examine their life to understand which element is missing creating a lack of honor.

The concept of honor extends beyond the Christian faith for anything that is held in high respect or distinction. Knowing what God says about honor supersedes any other model especially in the lives of Christians. Let us honor what God honors to be in biblical order.

May we as Christians understand what honor is to live by it as an attitude to others but also bring honor to God through our lives.

HONOR LESSON 2 Honor for God

Christians should not honor God solely based on His goodness or the blessings that He bestows but based on His holiness, His majesty, and His character. Dr. Mark T. Barclay has stated, "Submission and honor are the greatest elements of mankind". God is worthy of all praise, glory, AND honor.

- **Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

1 Timothy 1:17 KJV

- **Honor the Lord you heavenly beings; honor the Lord for his glory and strength. Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.**

Psalms 29:1-2 NLT

Honoring God should be a reasonable service (**Romans 12:1**) for all Christians. When selfish ambition and pride control the mind it is easy to forget to whom a person belongs.

- **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV

God has purchased those that believe in Him so the Apostle Paul charges the believers to honor God with their bodies. Mankind was designed to worship and honor God.

- **A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, the table of the Lord is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? Saith the Lord of hosts.**

Malachi 1:6-8 KJV

People that do not honor God do not fulfill their purpose of living. When honor for God is forfeited self becomes the highest entity of importance. This ideology is the basis for the seeker-friendly perversion of the modern churches to entertain self as opposed to honoring God.

- **This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV

These verses also display that mankind will be more self-absorbed in the last days. This has taken place due to a lack of honor for God, the people of God, and the things of God. Notice that all of these characteristics are self-centered. Modern society is reflected within these verses. Everything is about self. How quickly can my delivery come? How custom can I make my coffee? How much can I control everything in my life?

Dr. Mark T. Barclay has stated, “You have three enemies; sin, Satan, and self”. All three of these enemies create a dishonor toward God as well as the people and things of God. If Christians give in to this mentality then the enemy has created a wedge between God and His people by the hand of God’s people. This is reminiscent of Balaam.

- **Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.**

Numbers 31:16 KJV

- **They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to earn money by doing wrong.**

2 Peter 2:15 NLT

It was by the own hands of the children of Israel that the curse came through disobedience to God of hearts seeking self as opposed to honoring God. Keeping a right heart toward God is important for many reasons. Some of the methods to keep or correct a heart to honor God are through tithing, praying, worshiping, studying the Bible, and evangelizing. Notice that these elements are part of normal Christian service to God.

- **And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

Deuteronomy 6:5 KJV

Love displays honor. If a Christian truly loves God that person will honor God in everything that is conducted in life. People honor what or who they love no matter the circumstance. Even pagans get this with people and hobbies. Christians should be masters of this aspect due to having a deep love and honor for God.

- **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV

Everything that is done should be to the glory of God. This is a life of honor to God not just in word but through conduct. To be a true Christian means to be Christ-like. Jesus Christ honored God in everything He did.

- **For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

John 12:49-50 KJV

Jesus only spoke and did what God the Father told Him to do. This should be the attitude of life for every Christian that declares they love and serve God. Honor follows love. If there is a lack of honor for God one must reflect on how much love they truly have for God.

May we as God's people honor God with everything that we say and do.

HONOR LESSON 3 Honor in Tithing

Honor is an important characteristic not only for mankind to have toward the appropriate people and things but should be found in all Christians due to the Word of God. As we previously discussed, tithing is one method to honor God.

- **Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.**
Proverbs 3:9 KJV

Christians should honor God with their tithe or first fruits. God created all things but He allows mankind to have dominion over the things of the earth.

- **Now all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.**
Leviticus 27:30 NASB

It is a matter of honor for God's people to give a tithe of their increase to God. God allows the tithe to pass through the hands of His people so they may honor Him with what is rightfully His. This is a test of the heart (**1 Thessalonians 2:4; Proverbs 17:3**) to see if there is honor for God or honor for mammon (**Deuteronomy 13:3**).

- **And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.**

Luke 21:1-4 KJV

This example displays that the heart of each person dictates how God views people's giving. Even though tithing or giving unto God can be an act of honor He examines the heart as the true test of purity in motive. God honors those that honor Him (**1 Samuel 2:30**). It is the responsibility of each Christian to honor God with their tithe and their heart.

Tithing is not only worship to God but a display of honor. As previously mentioned the tithe belongs to God. Tithing is a great revealing agent of how much God's people truly honor Him or how much they truly hold their natural supply dear to their hearts.

- **And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.**

Matthew 22:20-21 KJV

Jesus is telling everyone listening at this point that taxes or natural things may belong to the government, so give the government what is rightfully theirs but give God what is rightfully His, which includes the tithe. Giving tithe correctly is with a heart of worship and honor. To give incorrectly is from obligation or resentment.

- **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV

God loves those that give in honor but also with a cheerful heart. If a person gives *grudgingly* (not generously or goodwill) or from an *obligation* (a sense of duty or due to an agreement) that person is giving out of the wrong heart. God's people should be happy to give to the One that supplies their needs. After all, God does not just see the outward expression but He looks at the heart of the person and their motive.

- **But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.**

Jeremiah 17:10 NLT

It is not the giving of the gift toward God that makes this process honor but the heart of worship to God that reflects honor. According to Dr. Mark T. Barclay, tithing has two parts: the *gift* and *worship*. The gift is ten percent of a person's income. In some countries, this is beans, crops, cattle, etc. While in most countries, this is finances. Worship is part that God looks for the most. This is another reason that God searches the hearts and motives to know the genuineness of the person's honor toward Him. As God looks at the heart and motives, this does not only apply to tithing but everything in a person's relationship or actions toward God.

May we as Christians examine our hearts in everything we do for our God and give honor especially in our tithing.

HONOR LESSON 4 Honor for Leaders

God-ordained leaders are placed within the lives of people everywhere. Honor for leaders is an important aspect for all of mankind. Having honor for leadership will bless a person at their job, in their home, at school, within the church, and when serving God.

- **Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.**

Titus 3:1-2 NLT

Christians must be submitted to leaders as well as display honor.

- **Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.**

Hebrews 13:17 KJV

It is easier to receive from a leader when a person is truly submitted to that leader. This is a reflection of honor. A leader includes but is not limited to a boss, police officer, pastor, and parents.

- **Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**

Exodus 20:12 KJV

Children are to honor their parents. Here, one can find that honor is important to God due to this concept being expressed as a doctrine to be taught to children that will have a lifetime of impact. This honor comes with a promise from God regarding that person would live for a long time if children honor their parents. Again, this honor may vary due to the spiritual and moral status of those parents. If the parents are not holy people the honor may come in the form of prayer for them without fellowship.

Pastors are important leaders to give honor to due to being given as a gift from Jesus Christ to the people of God (**Ephesians 4:11**). Not having honor for this gift is disrespectful to Jesus Christ.

- **And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.**

Matthew 13:57 KJV

All of the Fivefold Ministers have been given to the saints to assist in maturing the people of God in their relationship with God.

- **Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward.**

1 Timothy 5:17-18 KJV

Pastors that work for the kingdom of God by laboring in the Word and sound doctrine are worthy of double honor. Some Christians count the *man* of God as the only qualifier to be a pastor, but the wife must also qualify to be a leader in the ministry to be biblically accurate (**1 Timothy 3:11**). The wife can disqualify the husband from ministry if she does not meet the criteria of the Word of God.

- **And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**

Genesis 2:23-24 KJV

Since the wife can qualify or disqualify the husband for ministry then both the husband and the wife should be honored as pastors. When God promotes a man He is promoting the couple if married.

All leaders must qualify and remain qualified to be in charge of others.

- **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

2 Timothy 2:21 KJV

Leaders must be pure and worthy of honor. Since leaders must qualify for their authority they qualify for honor. Biblical leadership is not appointed or given authority due to the good ole boy system or to just anyone but is given to those proven and tested according to scripture (**1 Timothy 3:1-13**). Remember, this is for all leadership not only the pastor and his wife.

We as Christians should honor the leaders in our lives to reflect the biblical standard God desires us to live.

HONOR LESSON 5 Honor for the Things of God

As God is to be honored, so must the things of God be honored. If a president were to be honored yet his home or other things associated with him were not honored how much is the president truly honored. This principle can be applied to God. How much does a person honor God if God's house is not honored?

- **Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.**

Psalm 26:8 KJV

Christians should honor the things of God because of the association from those things to God. The house of God should have honor from all those that love, serve, or fear God. If God's presence is in His house there should be honor there.

- **And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

Matthew 21:12-13 KJV

These verses display when there is a dishonor for the house or things of God Jesus has the right to throw the dishonorable people out. The issue was not the process of moneychanging but instead the greedy sellers' manipulation of those seeking to honor God with sacrifices.

- **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.**

1 Peter 3:5 KJV

Peter is charging believers to sanctify (set apart) God in their hearts. If God is honored within the hearts of His people the things of God will be honored. The house of God will be honored, the people of God will be honored, and the Word of God will be honored producing a holy lifestyle that is pleasing unto God.

- **But continue thou in the *things* which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in**

righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 KJV

The Apostle Paul is telling Timothy to continue in the *things* of God. If Timothy did not have honor for the things of God he would have failed this command given to him by his man of God. Part of this conversation discusses the Word of God that is profitable for doctrine (living a holy life through teaching), for reproof (exposing, convicting sin), for correction (adjusting to increase accuracy), and for instruction in righteousness (what is right, the act of doing what is in agreement with God's standards).

Lacking an honor for the things of God will negate a love for God.

- **Your priests have violated my instructions and defiled my holy things. They make no distinction between what is holy and what is not. And they do not teach my people the difference between what is ceremonially clean and unclean. They disregard my Sabbath days so that I am dishonored among them. Your leaders are like wolves who tear apart their victims. They actually destroy people's lives for money!**

Ezekiel 22:26-27 NLT

These verses display that dishonoring the things of God will reflect a dishonor for God. This issue became so deep-rooted within the people that the leaders began to destroy the lives of people for financial gain. The origin was defiling God's instructions and holy things.

Honor must be established and kept within the hearts of God's people. Practicing honor should be a lifestyle of every Christian to keep a right attitude not only to God but to the things of God.

- **Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.**

Psalms 71:8 KJV

This is the responsibility of all believers to keep a heart toward God and not allow the enemy to begin a division by waning honor for the things of God leading to a lack of honor for God. Small increments will create a big impact over a period of time. Christians must discern even the small things that attempt to creep in to create this division.

May we as Christians honor the things of God not only with our mouth but through action due to a heart of honor for God Himself.

HONOR LESSON 6 Honor All Men

All of mankind is worthy of honor in some regard. Every person is not required to have the same manner of honor but should have honor according to their character or their position. At the very least as a creation of the God Almighty.

- **Show respect for all men [treat them honorably]. Love the brotherhood (the Christian fraternity of which Christ is the Head). Reverence God. Honor the emperor.**

1 Peter 2:17 AMP

Although all of mankind is worthy of some level of honor this does not constitute a mandate to have a relationship or interaction with everyone. Some people can only be honored by praying for their souls to be born again or their repentance.

- **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.**

Romans 12:9-10 NASB

Christians are to honor others and be kind in love. Love does not make excuse or condone sin, but love confronts sin, believes for the best, and endures (**1 Corinthians 13**). Honor works similarly.

Honor does not stand for perversion, filth, or sin but can still be manifested through prayer for salvation or repentance, fasting for a move of God within that person's life, or evangelizing the person that is not in right relations with God.

- **But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.**

Romans 2:10 KJV

Honor especially belongs to those that do what is right as opposed to evil. The Apostle Paul discusses God will give glory, honor, and peace to those that do what He says and lives a holy life.

- **Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the Lord.**

Leviticus 19:32 NLT

Honor should be given to those that are older. This is a command given within the Mosaic Law. This element has become a missing ingredient within most of today's society. Honor

was a staple characteristic within many nations, especially America not so many years ago. As the last days have come to pass, people have become self-absorbed and give honor only to themselves or only to those they appreciate. This should not be the testimony of the Body of Christ. Christians should have a love and honor for everyone although this may look differently depending on the circumstances.

Honor within marriage is another area the enemy has attacked to destroy what God has established.

- **Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.**

1 Peter 3:7 KJV

Many would say that this verse is sexist or not politically correct, but the heart of this verse is for the husband to be the protector and provider. God made man and woman differently so the honor for each will look slightly different as well. Husbands should honor their wives to protect them, provide for them, and lead them as the head of the household. Wives should honor their husbands as leaders, protectors, and providers.

- **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.**

Colossians 3:18-19 KJV

- **In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.**

Ephesians 5:28-29 NLT

Husbands should honor their wives as the governess of the home as well as their helpmeet. An honored wife should be treated as her husband's best friend, lover, and the prize of his eye. This will help her feel confident, loved, and appreciated as the first lady of her family.

- **However, each man among you [without exception] is to love his wife as his very own self [with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of lovingkindness], and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear].**

Ephesians 5:33 AMP

An honored husband should feel confident to lead, that he has the help of his wife, and strong in protecting what he has been given from God. A wife can help a husband feel these characteristics or she can make him feel worthless and useless. Much like a husband can make his wife feel like a queen or a punching bag (whether physical or verbal).

In either role, a spouse should honor their mate because *they are a gift from God*. This assists each person in the marriage to feel fulfilled and honored which reduces the temptations to seek attention from an outside source. God instituted marriage with honor being a key element within the union. Honor for one another and honor to God as a couple fulfills the call that God has for them as a team.

May we as Christians have proper honor to all men according to God's Word.