

HONOR

I put aside
myself for
the sake
of others



Developing rhythms
in my relationship
with the church

Honor *I put aside myself for the sake of others*

Honor tends to be lacking in many spheres of life, and often for good reason. People who should have been in positions of honor have acted less than honorably, and so we've excused ourselves for not respecting them (because in our mind, they're not worthy of respect). But, Jesus gives us a different view that actually has more to do with who is doing the honoring than the person being honored. The gospel message is all about us who, because of sin, aren't worthy and yet Jesus died for us. He calls us to follow His example and put aside ourselves and show honor and respect for others, not because they are worthy, but because our Lord who loves us is worthy. As a result, we offer grace and choose to be others oriented.

PRACTICES

REVERE: It starts with our relationship with God. Do you honor and revere Him? Next time you are in a worship environment, find ways to express your honor and reverence for God and His holiness. Practice honoring God in all aspects of your life. It's God who put the people around you in your life, so find ways to honor God by honoring them.

YOU FIRST: Practice intentionally putting aside yourself for the sake of others. Look for opportunities in everyday life to allow others to choose things they enjoy and go along with them. Think first of what the other person might enjoy and take steps to provide that. Intentionally try to be "last" when it comes to the people around you. Practice it for a week or two and journal about your thoughts and experiences.

SERVE: Choose to serve someone who you may not know, or who you may think doesn't deserve it. Show the love of Jesus to that person by being kind. If asked "why?" talk about what Jesus did for you. Serving doesn't need to be complex, or even take a lot of time. You can choose to open a door, bring someone something, clean up, or even serve through kind and encouraging words. Make it a personal and continuing practice with others.

ASSESS: Think about the people right now who have some level of authority over you. Assess whether you feel like you've honored and shown respect for them lately. What would you do differently if you acted in the name of Jesus, rather than in your own name? What would it mean to treat them like you would treat Jesus? Without putting yourself in harm's way, make changes based on your honest assessment. Find ways to help them feel respected by you.

DIG IN

Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7

Saul was seeking to kill David because he viewed David as a threat to his authority. Yet when David had an opportunity to strike first, he refused, why (v6)?

David knew his role was to honor the one the Lord had established as authority. David honored Saul even though he was trying to harm him. He believed that God would handle it if anything needed to change. We need to honor others by not responding in kind. (To be clear, we are not saying we put ourselves in harms way . We should be wise in relating from a place of personal safety as we confront with respect.) In most cases we may disagree with someone in authority, or we may not like the person, but we are still called to show them respect and honor. How might your attitude and actions look different if you adopted this mindset of honor?

What might change with people who are your peers? How can you grow in showing honor toward others around you?

Look up the following verses, write a summary statement, and note any insights:

Proverbs 3:9:

Matthew 15:8:

Romans 12:10:

Romans 13:7:

1 Corinthians 12:22-26:

Ephesians 6:2:

Philippians 2:28-30:

Hebrews 13:4:

1 Peter 2:16-18:

RESPOND

Of the four practices (Revere, You First, Serve, Assess) which feels most natural to you? Which stands out as an area for growth? If a practice is natural for you, take it to the next level. If a practice is an area where you would like to grow, make a plan to read more about it, and seek out others who do it well or have incorporated it into their lives. Then, actively and intentionally try out that practice for a month. Write down how you have seen God working in you, and others, as a result of anticipating God's movement through the practice.

During the next month, consistently engage in one of the four practices and record your observations. What responses do you receive from others? What changes, if any, do you notice in them? How about yourself? Are you responding to others differently? How do you feel?

As you reflect on this topic, if you realize there is someone in your life who you've not shown honor, how can you begin to show them your willingness to change? You might consider writing a note of apology, or talking with them face to face to share what you're learning.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Triggers: Exchanging Parents' Angry Reactions for Gentle Biblical Responses by Amber Lia

I Choose Honor: The Key to Relationships, Faith, and Life by Rich Wilkerson, Sr.

A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness by Gene Edwards

FOR KIDS

Love Does for Kids by Bob Goff



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