

Honor - Part 1
July 27-28th, 2019

"Honor... the Forgotten Virtue of Blessing"

Intro:

- ? When was the Last Time you were Rewarded for something?
 - Bonus at work - Trophy - Acknowledgement
 - Picture in the Newsletter - Safe Driving Discount
 - We all love rewards & benefits!

- GOLD STATUS ON DELTA ILL.
 - There were no graphics, no fireworks, no nothing, it just changed to the next level up & how many more flights & dollars I need to spend to get there!
 - I was so mad! I came back & told Lisa to research all the new rewards I get for being Gold!
 - She was like, "Yeah, there's not really any difference until you get Platinum!!!"
 - What???

- We all love Rewards!
 - For the next few weeks, we are going to talk about a concept that is HUGE in the eyes of God & this concept has GIGANTIC REWARDS attached to it!
 - Like Generational Impacting Benefits & Rewards!!!

- Problem: Our Culture has completely lost this virtue & so many of the problems plaguing our nation are because we've lost this virtue entirely!

- I'm talking about "Honor."

- PAUSE - Before we go any further... I want to stop & Honor my Heavenly Father!
 - This is HIS Church! - This is HIS Word we are Proclaiming!

- PRAY** - I am here as your son, where would we be w/o You!

~~- We are nothing w/o You! - We are Your children!~~

~~- PROBLEM: Our Culture has Lost His Virtue!!~~

- When I say that our nation has Lost "Honor," what I mean is, *"take it out, stomp on it, smash it into the ground and crush it until it is absolutely unrecognizable!"*

- Sadly, that's what our culture has done to Honor!

- But here's the good news: We, the church, have the ability to Lead in this area & set the example for so many by understanding what the Bible has to say about this All-Important Topic called, "Honor."

- And future generations are at stake!

- SILENCE & SOLITUDE RETREAT

- "Matt, our Church has an Honor Problem."

- We had a whole different series planned for right now!

- I felt so strong that we had to teach on Honor!!!

- Bring it back up... Can I just tell you...

- It gets me so excited to think about the Teenagers & Young Adults growing up in our church who will have a different thought & belief about Honor b/c they have grown up in this church!

- That's a game-changer, isn't it???

What is Honor?

Honor - Definition: "To value, weight, or esteem; to hold in high regard."

- The Opposite is "to treat as ordinary or common."

Why does Honor matter?

2 John 1:8 " Watch yourselves, so that you should not lose what things we have worked for, but you may receive a full reward."

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

- **According to Scripture, God is a Rewarder!**
 - **He loves to give His kids Rewards!!!**
 - **When you study Scripture, it becomes clear that there are 3 kinds of reward available to us as believers...**

3 Kinds of Reward:

- 1. Full Reward.**
- 2. Partial Reward.**
- 3. No Reward.**

- **There is a Perfect Example of this in the life of Jesus...**

- **In Mark 5, Jesus delivers a Demon-Possessed man & raises a dead girl back to life!!**

- **Then in chapter 6, He goes to His hometown...**

Mark 6:1-6 " 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? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"

v. 3 "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.

v. 4 "Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."

v. 5-6 "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith."

- They treated Jesus as common & consequently, He was restrained from doing any miracles!!!
 - His power was No Different than the day before!
 - It doesn't say He "wouldn't" it says He, "Couldn't!"
 - That's how big of a deal this is!
 - They got very little Reward!

- KENYA - FREEDOM ILL.
 - When our Missionaries invited us, they wanted us to bring our Freedom principles!
 - For those of you who are Unfamiliar or New to NLC, these are deep concepts of forgiving those in our past who have hurt us, etc.

 - The Kenyan Pastors were so Honored that we were there!!!
 - From the 1st session, they were open to us & our message & wanted everything God had for them!

 - From the 1st message, they started calling Sarah "Mama Freedom!"
 - B/c they understood that God had sent someone with a message that could change their life!

 - They Honored the Word of God & Honored us & Believed that God could do it & in 2 1/2 days, HE DID!!!
 - Why? They are the same principles that take 12 weeks to get here in the USA?
 - It's because of Honor!
 - PASTOR MATTHEW ILL.
 - He forgave his father for leaving him as a little boy!

 - I was in a group with a man whose father had done something similar & when I challenged him he said, "Yeah, Matt, I'm just not sure!" ✓
 - There are some who go all the way through Freedom & never let their skeptical guard down & guess what... they walk out going... 'eh, it was okay!'

 - What's the difference???

- Honor!!! - Honor & Faith are connected!!!

- There is Full, Partial & No Reward based on How we Honor God, His Word, & the People around us in our life!

- CENTURION ILL.

- My servant is sick, Jesus says He will come, the centurion pushes back... I'm not worthy! Just say the word...

Luke 7:8-9 " For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes; and another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do something, and he does it."

v. 9 "When Jesus heard this, He marveled at the centurion. Turning to the crowd following Him, He said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith!"

*** Honor begins in our Heart and it starts with God.**

? How are we Treating our Relationship with God?

- Go back to the Definition: Weighty, to esteem highly
- vs. "Treating as Common."

- GETTING A NEW CAR VS. ONE YOU'VE HAD FOR AWHILE ILL.

? How are we treating our Relationship with God? His Word? His House?

- Is it just "Ho-hum" & common?
- Or is it with Honor & Reverence & Belief every time that God wants to do something in us & through us?!?

- How we Honor makes all the difference!!!

- Jesus made it clear that its possible for our life to "Look like" we are Honoring when in actuality, we are not.

on the outside

Matthew 15:1-2 " Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

- IOW, the religious crowd wanted to argue with Jesus over details & semantics & inconsequential things.
- Jesus calls them out & turns it back on them & basically says, "You guys want to argue about all this petty stuff, when in reality, your hearts are far from Me!!!"

v. 7-8 " You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'"

- Church, lets be so careful!!!
 - It's so easy to condemn the Pharisees right here & wag our finger at them, & in reality, be the same way!!!
 - Where we Look Like we are Honoring God, but in our heart, we are actually "Dishonoring" God by Treating Him as Common!!!
- The Pharisees were guilty of thinking "Behavior Modification" was Honor!
 - When in reality, week after week, their hearts were unchanged!
- MIP: ? So what about us???
- We all love Rewards!
 - There is a Reward for those who have Honor in their Heart!
 - Full Reward, Partial Reward & No Reward.

- They had Jesus, Himself, with them, & they missed it!!!

- Definition Again: To hold in high regard vs. to treat as common.

- In the next few weeks, we are going to talk about how this plays out with Government Leaders, Teachers, Coaches, Parents, Church Leaders, etc.
 - But the starting place of All Honor is with God & it starts in our Hearts!

TIME OF PRAYER - How's our Heart???

Repent, Do a 180!!!

Leave Different!

SALVATION

Honor - Part 2
"Honor His Word, His House & Our Parents"
August 3-4th, 2019

Intro:

- Review last week!
 - Our world has an Honor Problem!
 - Our Church has an Honor Problem! - Silence & Solitude Retreat

- MENTION JOHN BEVERE BOOK

- We are slowing down over these few weeks, to really let God do a Deep Work in our Hearts concerning this idea of Honor!
 - **Great news: Honor comes with Rewards!!!**
 - God wants to give his kids good things!
 - We're not talking about his love (that is unconditional)!
 - We're not talking about salvation (that is a free gift!)
 - We are talking about a life of honor that God can reward!

2 John 1:8 "Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully."

- KJV - "**Look to yourselves...**"
 - It's so easy to look everywhere else, but we have an opportunity to LOOK at ourselves!

PRAY - SOBERLY HONOR GOD AGAIN

- Let's go back to the Definition of Honor Again...

Definition: To hold in High Regard vs. To treat as Common or Ordinary!

- **DEREK JETER BALL VS DIRTY BALL IN MY TRUNK ILL.**
 - The cheapest I can find one is about \$700 & honestly, a lot more!!!
 - The other ball, I couldn't sell for \$2 at a garage sale!
 - ? How do you think I treat these 2 balls?
 - One with Honor (like, changed the locks on my office...)
 - The other, I keep in the trunk of my car to play catch with!!!

- Segue: The Bible has a lot to say about Honor!

- There may be areas in our life that we need to **LOOK AT OURSELVES &** see if we are living a life of honor, so we can receive a full reward.

- Today I want to look at 3...

1) Honoring God's Word.

2) Honoring God's House.

3) Honoring our Father & Mother.

SIT:

"Let's start with..."

1. Honoring God's Word.

A. The Bible is not just any old book!

- This collection of 66 books is not random, we believe it is the Inspired Word of God for our Lives & it's wisdom & teachings have the power to transform us, deliver us & change us from the Inside Out!

- So many throughout History have tried to destroy it, stop its distribution & remove it from our lives, but God always protects & promotes His Word!!!

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

B. There is something special about this book!

- And God wants us to Honor & Revere This Book in our Lives!!!

C. NEHEMIAH ILL. - The people of God had been without the word of God for decades & Nehemiah leads the charge to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem & restore Honor to God's City!

- When they come together to have the celebration, the Prophet Ezra brings out the Word of God to read it to them for the 1st time in a long time...

Nehemiah 8:5 "Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up."

D. There was such awe, such reverence, such anticipation over the reading of the Word of God that they couldn't stay seated!!!

- They stood to their feet b/c they were so Honored, so blessed to be hearing the Word of God read again in their city!!!

E. MIP: I wonder about us! Do we have that kind of reverence & honor for the Word of God living in our Hearts???

- My concern for us is that we have so much access to God's Word that we actually take it for granted!

F. That sounds like a very Satanic scheme doesn't it?!?

- *"If I can't get rid of the Word of God, I'll give them so much access to it, that they actually take it for granted!!!"*
- Wow!!! How horrible! - How tragic!

G. Look at their response...

v. 6 "Ezra praised the Lord, great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground."

- The natural response to the reading of the Word was Worship!!!
- They had an expectation that when God's Word was preached, God would move mightily on their behalf & the natural overflow of that was worship!

I. MIP: What about us??? We Honor God's Word in Public and in private... remember, honor starts in the heart.

- ? So, what is our heart saying when the Word of God is opened?
- Are we on our phone? - Texting? - Checking Instagram?
- Halfway paying attention? - Complacent?
- Skeptical? - Judgmental? - Treating it as common?
- Or... are we holding the Word of God in High Regard?
- Taking notes? - Leaning in? - Engaged? - Learning

J. In the morning, are we wanting His Word in our heart?

- ? Are we pursuing God's Word 1st thing? or the News?
 - or text messages & emails? - or comments overnight?
- ? Are we hiding it in our heart? - Committing it to memory?

K. ? Are we letting God's Word divide our soul and spirit?
 - MWK - JUST THIS WEEK!!!

2. Honoring His House.

A. To Honor God's House is to Honor God Himself.

- There's a Reward that comes in prioritizing being in God's House.

- It's so easy in our culture to make being IN God's House Optional.

- 1) Tired / Busy.
- 2) Scattered.
- 3) Pulled in 100 directions
- 4) Traveling.
- 5) We can watch online.
- 6) We live in the Land of Leisure... Golf / Beach / Sunshine!

- I get it church, but there is a Blessing when we prioritize the House of God!

- PARENTS: We need to be so aware of this b/c If we make God's house optional while our children are growing up, they will learn that it is "ordinary!"

- But when we say, "Kids, where would I be without the house of God?" and when they see us honoring God's house, no matter what kind of week we have had, they will learn, "God's house is not ordinary & I want to hold it in high regard."

B. To Honor God's House is to Honor God's People!

- It's not just about hearing the message for ourselves!
- We are called by God to Carry One Another's Burdens!

Galatians 6:2 " Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

- We can't do that if we are not in Community & Relationship with God's People!!!

- If we are not Honoring God's House!

C. To Honor God's House means to Honor God's Presence.

Matthew 18:20 " For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (NASB)

D. This is not just a Movie Theater or Target or Grocery Store or School.

- The manifest presence of God dwells here.
- The anointing of God is here to break the yoke of bondage over our lives.
- Jesus said HE would be in our midst when we gather together!!!

Hebrews 11:25 "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (NLT)

E. 1 FLOWER VS A DOZEN VS A FIELD OF FLOWERS ILL.

- 1 is nice - 12 is pretty - a Field is Powerful!
- When we gather together, we multiply God's goodness to the world around us!!!

3. Honoring our Father & Mother.

A. 1 of the most famous passages is the 10 Commandments!

- It's the 5th Commandment & it's the 1st Commandment that includes a promise with it!!!

Exodus 20:12 " Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

- Paul recaps it as well in Ephesians 6:1-3...

B. ? If God only has 10 "Commandments," & since He knew that mankind would fall & all of us would have "Less than Perfect" parents,
- & some of us would have bad parents, why would God put this in there?

- ? What's He trying to do???

C. The intention from God here is to get Honor deep into the heart of a child so that for the rest of their life they would treat others with Honor!

- B/c God knew that if we don't get Honor early, it will have more severe consequences the older we get!!!

D. That's why the promise: "That it may go well with you & you may live long in the land the Lord is giving to you."

- God has a "Good Land," for each of us!

- It will never happen without Honor!!!

- (Our nation (land) won't go well until we get "Honor" back in!!!)

 **E. Some of us may feel like our parents aren't "worthy of honor" because of their behavior. IOW, "Who they were to us growing up."**

- What do we do then?

- Some of us grew up with bad parents who didn't know God at all.

- Some of us grew up with bad parents who were Christians.

- Absent parents, neglectful, Manipulative, Co-Dependent...

- Verbally Abusive, Sexually Abusive, Emotionally Abusive...

- They used the Bible against us!

- legalistic, unloving, used rules and a works mindset vs a relationship

- It's almost worse when they're quoting the bible & then acting a different way.

? So what do we do?

1) We choose to honor them.

- We need to understand that honor is a choice that starts in our heart.
 - Honor is not saying “I agree or it was good” – honor is saying, “I can hold them in high regard because God made them and loves them and for whatever reason, He trusted me to be their child.”
- We choose to understand that we were raised by humans.
 - We don't know what they went through & how they were raised.
 - We understand that they don't have the truth that you have now.
- They don't know about the Holy Spirit (maybe legalism if they did)
 - Churches were form & ritual, not spiritual experience.

* I'm not talking about a lack of boundaries.

- Healthy boundaries are knowing and understanding what our limits are for our own hearts.
- We can honor in our hearts and honor with our words and still have boundaries to protect us from unhealthy relationships.
- Let the Holy Spirit guide you and your heart through this as you choose to honor the position of Mother & Father that God, our Father gave us.

2) We choose to forgive them!

- We don't have to honor their actions, but we do have to forgive them!
 - B/c otherwise we are the one who is going to suffer!

? Why did God put me in this home?

- God doesn't put us in a situation but He will bring us through it.
- See that God, our Father...has a good plan to bring us closer to Him, a perfect Father who will never leave us or forsake us!
- We will be able to minister to people that nobody else can minister to.
 - If... we will not stay in bitterness, but choose to forgive!

STORY OF JOYCE MEYER ???

- God wants to reward us, here on earth and in heaven.
 - When we honor, there is a reward waiting for us... will we honor?

Challenge:

- God wants us to Honor His Word, His House & Our Parents...

- ? What about us?

1. Some of us need to Forgive.

2. Some of us need to pray about how you can honor your Mother or Father this week.

3. Some of us need to Repent of our Lack of Honor toward God's Word or His House.

PRAYER TIME

Honoring Leaders
Honor Series August 2019
Pastors Craig D. & Luis Q.

Intro – (LQ)

- **WELCOME** all Locations (Bonita Springs, East, Fort Myers) & anyone watching online! Let's give it up for everyone.
- **Introduce Pastor Craig & Myself. (FUN)**
 - **(CD) - (PIC) - Pastor Craig family**
 - **(PIC) Pastor Luis – Roman's first day of school fam pic**
- **RECAP** of the last 2 weeks
 - **Week 1 – Pastor Matt shared on what the virtue of Honor is.**
 - **Week 2 – Pastor Matt Shared on Honoring God's word, His house, and our Mothers and Fathers**
- **This week, Our Pastors, Pastor Matt & Sarah asked Pastor Craig and I to teach and share on "Honoring our Leaders"**
 - **We are going to learn what God has to say in His word about this idea of honoring our leaders.**
 - **What we want to do first, we want to pray for God to open our hearts.**

(CD) – PRAY: For an outpouring of God's Spirit to convict, to confirm truth, to counsel; for clarity (bind confusion); for open hearts and minds.

(LQ) – → INVITE TO TAKE NOTES←

- **REMINDER OF THE DEFINITION – To hold in High Regard vs. to Treat as Common or Ordinary!**

2 John 1:8 ⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what we^[a] have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

- **God is a rewarder.**
- **Full Reward (biblical), partial reward, no reward SCENARIOS**

- Live in such a way that you receive a full reward because God wants that for us. Not a partial reward but a full reward. → BLESSING IN ALL OF OUR LIFE (Relationally, financially, ministry, etc...)

(CD) – That's so good Pastor Luis, so church today we are going to focus on what the scriptures have to say about Honoring the leaders in our life. In other words, How do we hold in high regard and not as common & ordinary the authorities/leaders that God has places in our lives?

TENSION → Why this matters?

- ALL of us have leaders and authorities in our lives and the Bible teaches that when we honor our authorities and leaders there is a reward that is released from heaven for us.

(CD) -

You see church, the Bible says in:

Romans 13:1(NLT) - Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

- Now there are kinda 2 parts to this verse; the first is that there are governing authorities in our lives. If we double click on the word governing we see:

President, our governors, our senators,

Its our bosses, our teachers, our coaches,

Its our fathers and mothers,

Here at Next Level Church, it's the serve team leaders in our coaches, asst coaches, group leaders and its our Pastors!

The second part to this verse is pivotal to our entire message today – all authority comes from God!

Slow down, close eyes DO WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THESE AUTHORITIES AND LEADERS HAVE BEEN PLACED BY GOD?

- If we do not believe that “all authority is of God” we will have a very hard time receiving this biblical perspective of honoring our leaders, the governing authorities in our lives.
- In relation to this question, some of us have an issue with honoring authority in our lives because we have had MEAN, CRUEL, OR DISHONEST leaders/authorities in our lives that have caused pain and hurt. Some of us have been abused and even molested by leaders in our lives, by those in positions of authority who had influence over us.
- For those of us who have gone through such pain – I am so so sorry, you should of never been treated like this, what was done to you was wrong and I am sorry.

All authority is from GOD BUT not all authority is Godly; the authority is from GOD but their behavior was not. The world will communicate to you stay hurt, make your leaders earn your respect before you see them as valuable.

But what the bible tells us is completely opposite of our culture. It says ‘forgive those who have hurt you’ & and honor the authority placed in your life

I know this is brand new to some of us, we were never taught to honor

(LQ) -

FUNNY – I GREW UP IN AN ULTRA HONOR HOME

- Honor the preacher who told us that all ninja turtles were from Satan... lost my eyebrows...not sure there was a blessing in that?
 - NOT SURE ABOUT THE FULL REWARD

So thankful for these early lessons to not treat those that God has placed in leadership or authority because they taught me as a child to value and place high regard on those leadership and authority figures God would place through out my life.

ILL – I've had to walk this out with my pastors -

- **Pastor Sarah looked at me 3 years ago after and challenged me.**
- **Learning this at a young age help me a lot. I DIDN'T REJECT her submission to pray.**
 - **It helped me GROW and ultimately, I have received a full reward from God in the way of healing and restoration of my heart and areas of my life, BUT IT CAME THROUGH THE AUTHORITY AND GIFT OF MY LEADER – PASTOR SARAH.**
 - **Honor PASTOR SARAH**

I get it, some of us are like what? Pastor Luis that sounds great. How do I do this?

So HOW DO we do this?

→ How do we honor the leaders & authorities in our lives who ultimately give us direction on what to do, who set the climate in which we operate EVEN WHEN THE LEADERS ARE UNGODLY?←

(CD) -

Church, we need to understand that a spirit of Honor is something that we have to have, we have to get into our hearts. Otherwise what we will be doing is behavior modification because we want a reward, and that is not the point of cultivating a culture of honor in our lives, our homes, our work places and our CHURCH!

- ***Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.***
- **We have to allow God and His word to transform our hearts and allow a spirit of Honor to flow into every area of our lives.**

**Pastor Luis please tell us, 3 ways in which we Honor our Leaders:
(Our bosses, coaches, teachers, church leaders, pastors)**

(LQ) -

1. With our Thoughts (what we think)

In the book of Mark 2 Jesus and the paralytic man that came down from the roof

Bible says...

- He was there to heal them but Jesus heard their thoughts! They received no healing, were amazed but missed out on a full reward because they dishonored Jesus with their thoughts!

PL- God can hear our thoughts. → we will miss out on the full reward God has for us even when we dishonor our leaders with our thoughts!

(CD) –

APL- Romans 12:2 Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think.

- Ask God for the Renewing of your mind so We can take any thought captive to Christ and submit it to His authority.

(LQ) -

2. We honor our leaders With Our Words (What we say)

- In the book of Numbers 12 - Story of Miriam & Aaron dishonoring Moses after marrying his Ethiopian wife
 - God gave Miriam Leprosy because she dishonored MOSES with her words.
 - MOSES ASKED GOD TO HEAL MIRIAM AND GOD DID.

PL - Principle here is that A spirit of Dishonor is like leprosy.

- Its contagious → It isolates
- It destroys our nerve endings

○ Keeps us from experiencing all that God has for us and the rewards He wants to channel through our leaders.

- I'm not saying God is going to give you leprosy. I'm thankful that Jesus died for our sin!
- We must be aware of our words, because if they are filled with negativity and judgement and dishonor towards the authorities and leaders in our lives, we WILL MISS OUT ON A FULL REWARD FROM GOD!

ILL – AT CHURCH - All of the sudden we worship but nothing changes. We hear God's word and nothing changes. Why? Because we have treated those leaders God has appointed over us with a spirit of dishonor → I don't like the way they sing, or the way they speak.

We look around and other people are getting breakthrough, experiencing freedom, finding hope and faith in God BUT WE CAN NOT.

AT WORK/TEAMS/SCHOOL → THEY ARE LESS QUALIFIED THAN I AM...
etc...

○ When this happens, we closed our lives to the full reward that comes through the anointing and gifts God has placed in the leaders in our lives.

(CD) -

Pastor Luis this is awesome!!!

Next Level do you see where we are at, Pastor Luis and myself want the best for you. We want you to live a life full of blessing and fulfillment. We know there is the temptation to dishonor each and every day with our words.

- *Parents*
- *Children*
- *Employees*
- *Students*

But how powerful it would be to use our words to honor our leaders, to pray actually pray for our leaders when we are tempted to react in dishonor.

(LQ)

3. With Our Actions (what we do)

In the Book of 1 Samuel we see how David served and honored King Saul – How could David still serve Saul, who wanted to kill him? He understood that Saul had been appointed by God therefore he honored Saul by showing up and serving him. FULL REWARD = God handed over the Kingdom of Israel to David.

PL - David received a full reward because he served and worked unto Saul with a spirit of Honor. He showed up every time he was called upon and served his leader faithfully, even when his leader wanted to literally kill him. He understood that Saul had been appointed by God and therefore his role was to honor him with every action in his life. → SAUL PRAYS A BLESSING FROM GOD FOR DAVID → MAY THE LORD REWARD YOU WELL FOR THE KINDNESS YOU HAVE SHOWN ME.

- → IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE HONORING IN THE MOST HOSTILE OF SITUATIONS.

We believe that it is possible to DO WHAT OUR LEADERS ASK OF US WITH A SPIRIT OF DISHONOR, in other words we can do an honoring thing in a dishonoring manner.

We are not promoting abuse. Remember what pastor Matt shared on week 1 = Having a spirit of honor in our lives doesn't mean that we blindly trust, or can't disagree, or tolerate sin, BUT it means that we are to do these things if necessary with a spirit of Honor.

(CD)

APP – David is the ideal example in God's word of honoring even an abusive and sadistic leader.

A lot of us today may not be under this same type of hostile authority as David but WE ARE ALL STILL LEARNING HOW TO LEAD WHEN IT COMES

TO HONORING THOSE AUTHORITIES/LEADERS, GOD HAS PLACED IN OUR LIVES, WITH OUR ACTIONS.

You might say 'Craig, I need more help than this – how do I even start'

We can show great honor to our leaders with our actions by including them in our decision making process; do we ask them or do we tell them. **PREACH**

Church, I am a leader, an authority in this house and I am currently learning this same thing. You see, **TESTIMONY!**

- HONOR PASTOR MATT - 'I LOVE YOU'

- You are an excellent spiritual father
- Thank you for the two hours @ firehouse subs that wed night
- I thank **GOD** for you and I honor you **NOW**

(LQ)

→ We don't honor to get the reward, we honor because JESUS paid the ultimate price for people to find life, and a culture of dishonor keeps people from meeting JESUS!

- **At the end of the day every blessing from God is to be used for HIS glory and to fulfill the great commission!<--**

ILL – Personal BANK STORY

- Problem
- Conviction → Repentance -> Healing
- God's healing from the **ABUSE** of a leader.

- PASTOR CRAIG'S ABUSE.

Experiential –

1. WE ALL WANT A SPIRIT OF HONOR IN OUR LIVES. WE ALL WANT GOD'S FULL REWARD IN OUR LIVES. HOW DO WE GET THIS

2. OPEN UP THE ALTARS

- SOME OF US NEED TO REPENT TO GOD

- **SOME NEED COME UP FOR PRAYER AND FORGIVE THE LEADERS.
RECEIVE HEALING**

Honor - Part 4
"Honor One Another..."
August 17-18th, 2019

Intro:

- It's so good to be back... Sarah & I LOVE you!!!
 - Honor Pastors Craig & Luis for an incredible message last weekend!
 - If you've missed any of these messages!
- Church, I love how God is Laying a Foundation for a Giant Harvest in our Lives this fall!!!
 - God wants to Reward us... There's actually a reward when we Honor in our lives!!!
- Next Week: New Series: "What is Love!"
 - Perfect series to Invite friends / co-workers / neighbors
- This weekend: Our final Installment on Honor!
 - Honoring One Another!!!

Look at this Verse...

Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

How do we Honor One Another?

- There are a lot of ways that we can Honor Others in our lives!
 - Write a Note & tell someone how much they mean to us!
 - Give a gift to someone!
 - Saying something on Social Media!
 - Our Actions!

* This weekend, I felt that we needed to focus as a church that:
(We Honor) With the Words we say!!! Here's why...

Proverbs 18:21 "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

How do we Honor 1 Another?

1. We stop speaking words that Dishonor & bring Death.

- IOW... We Refuse Gossip.

- Church - Gossip is a Dangerous Tool of the Enemy.

- Define Gossip: ^{Spiritually Speaking...} "A Negative spirit that is more bent on hurting than helping"

- ^{Practically...} Dave Ramsey: "Talking to someone about your problem who can't do anything about it..."

- I LOVE THAT!!!

The Point: - Satan uses Gossip to divide us All the Time!!!

- Show of Hands - ? How many of us have ever been harmed by Gossip???
- Nearly all of us have been adversely affected by gossip in some way!
 - It can have devastating effects on us as believers if we don't know what the Bible says about it!!!
- So many friendships, relationships & churches have been destroyed b/c of the sin of Gossip.

A Few Truths about Gossip:

- The Bible says...

* **Gossip separates Friends.**

Proverbs 16:28 " A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends."

* **Gossip undermines Wisdom & Honor.**

Ecclesiastes 10:1 "As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly (foolishness) outweighs wisdom and honor."

- IOW... you have 1 person speaking wisdom & honor & someone else speaking lies & gossip... our flesh will be drawn away to the gossip!

Proverbs 18:8 " The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts."

*** Gossip is Deceptive. (In other words, it sounds right)**

Gossip

Proverbs 18:17 " In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines."

- The problem with Deception is, we don't know when we are being deceived!!!
- So we hear something & it sounds "right" then it must be true.

- WATCHING A DATELINE OR 20/20 ILL.

- He definitely did it! - Wait, he didn't do it???
- The truth is, we are NOT the judge!!!

Proverbs 10:19 " Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues."

- IOW, the more we keep talking about something to people who can't do anything about it, the more Sin is going to spread!!!

*** Gossip is a Big Deal.**

2 Corinthians 12:20 " For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder."

- Look at this list & what Paul chose to talk about...
 - Our own fits of rage...
 - These are SIN & they are a BIG DEAL!!!

- But the enemy will get us to believe that its not!!! ^{Gossip is a Sin or Big Deal!}
 - "Well, I'm just venting!" - "Well, they just needed to vent!"
 - "Well, I need to share this with them so I can get wisdom!"
 - ? Is it wisdom, or are we just gossiping & trying to win people over to our point of view?!
 - ? Are we just full of rage & jealousy & upset and we haven't dealt with our own heart & instead we would rather just gossip about it & feel better!!!

? How do we Handle Gossip when we hear it?

1. Stop them & Ask: "Have you gone to this person about this?"

- If they have not, then you **MUST STOP THEM** right there b/c listening any further is **SIN!!!**

- Listening to Gossip IS Gossip!!!

- And it will perpetuate division among God's people!

- ~~PEOPLE WHO SAID "WE ARE NOT OUT THERE GOSSIPING..."~~

- ~~But a few minutes before they said they had read an email from a staff member & had not went to the staff member!~~

- ~~That's Gossip!~~

- People say, "*Well they were seeking wisdom from me!*"

- ??? Did you **Actually PRAY** for Wisdom **IN THAT MOMENT!!!**

- Or did we just sit & talk about it all for an hour!?!?

* Jesus tells us how to handle this in **Matthew 18...**

- The command is to go to **THEM!!!**

Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over."

- B/c if we go to someone else, here is what happens...

- **PLAY THIS OUT... ON STAGE!**

- **PLAY OUT HONOR AS WELL!!!**

? What do we do with our own heart???

2. Ask yourself: "Does this sound inconsistent w/ what I have known to be true about this person?"

- If Satan can't get us to believe an all out lie, then he will use "half-truths" and "exaggerations" to lure us away from Truth about someone!

SPEAR-JO
BONITA
2-3 yr IN

- If you can't get past it in your own heart, then you may need to go to them &...

3. Ask the offender: "Is this true?"

D. We are responsible for our own heart, so if someone has shared something with us & its bothering us in our spirit, than we **MUST** go to them or else it will eat us up from the inside out!

- We will be unable to hear from God b/c of discord in our heart!

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT) "Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."

- So many relationships have been corrupted b/c of Gossip!!!

Concluding Thought...

Proverbs 26:20 " Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down."

- MWK - I get it... I've fallen into this at times in the past too!

- I've had to go to that person & repent!

- I have to ask forgiveness...

- I've had to ask myself...

~~*~~ - ? Have I gone to God first?

- or am I going to someone else 1st???

- We have to stop ourselves & be so aware of Satan's tactics!!!

SEGUE: ... So we are talking about how we Honor One Another...

15:00

2. We Speak Life.

1) To those above us.

- Last Week: Every Authority is placed there by God, but not every authority is Godly.

A. Church: God has called us to Honor those who are in Authority over us!

Next
Election
Cycle!

- We are going to be the church that speaks life over the Authorities that GOD has placed above us!!!

B. From the President & Politicians to City Officials, to Bosses, Pastors & Leaders, let's commit to Honor with our words.

"We speak life..."

2) To those around us.

A. Let's be the kind of church that is first in speaking love & life & complements & truth & hope!

- There is enough negative in our world!

B. People are attracted to Life!!!

- WOMAN - YOU LOOK LIKE A HAPPY CHURCH!!!

- Let's make a commitment to speak life!!!

- Let's choose to see & focus on the good, not just what's wrong all the time!

"We speak life..."

3) To those entrusted to us.

- Anyone that God puts in our path that we can influence & bless for any period of time...

- Waiters / Waitresses / Clerks / Flight Attendants / Gate Agents / Those Older than Us / Those Younger than Us /
- but also specifically...

- OUR KIDS - We've been dishonoring our Kids.

- "You little pions..."

- ? Do they feel like we are Holding them in High Regard???

- Jesus honored the Children.

- The disciples wanted to get rid of them!!!

- EMPLOYEES - Those who work for us.

- "I'm the authority & you're just a whatever..."

- "You work for me & I'm in charge so sit down & do your job..."

"We speak life..."

4) To the Name of the Lord.

Exodus 20:7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

- There is Power in the Name of our God!
 - His very Name is Holy!!!
 - Satan loves for people to use it loosely & carelessly.
- Let's don't do that! Let's Honor the Name of God!
- "Oh my God!" - "Jesus Christ!" - "Oh God!" - "Jesus!"

Definition: "To hold in High Regard!"

"We speak life..."

5) To ourselves.

- Some of us are not speaking life over ourselves!
 - We are Literally Dishonoring the Image of God within us!
- "You're so stupid. You're so ugly. You're not good enough."
 - God made you in His Image & you are fearfully & wonderfully made!
- You don't have the right to dishonor 1 of God's kids that way!
 - You need to repent & start speaking life over yourself from now on!
- At the end of the day, Honor is a Matter of our Heart:

*And it has a
Reward Attached to
it!!!*

Psalm 19:14 " May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

- It all goes back to the Heart!!!

Challenge:

? Have you been guilty of gossip? Listening?

- You need to repent to God! - Repent to those it has affected!

? Are we speaking Life?

- Leaders, Others, those Entrusted to us, God's Name, ourselves?

Are the words of our mouth & the mediations of our heart pleasing to God our Savior???

TIME OF PRAYER