**Honor Him to Whom All Honor is Due**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Ephesians 6:1-3. It’s around this time of year (between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day) that I typically preach a sermon on this passage, especially on the need to honor father and mother.
2. Let’s talk today, thoByugh, about honoring someone much more important than our mother and father. Let’s talk about honoring God.
3. Let’s understand, first, that our efforts to honor God must come from the heart; they must be genuine. Matthew 15:7-8.
   1. Let’s hope that Isaiah was not prophesying about US.
4. Do we understand the honor due Him? This lesson’s title is a pretty good clue, but to make sure we understand the honor of which He is worthy, let’s read a few passages.
   1. Revelation 4:8-11.
   2. Revelation 5:8-14, where the praise is directly specifically to the Lamb of God.
   3. 1 Timothy 1:17.
   4. 1 Timothy 6:12-16.
   5. Malachi 1:6-8 (words directed to those who were doing everything BUT showing honor to God).
5. Let’s look now at some specific ways we should honor God.

**BODY:**

1. We honor God by speaking to others about Him.
   1. Aren’t our parents honored when we speak to others about them?
   2. Wouldn’t it be nice if we had the same conviction, the same desire expressed by Peter and John when they were commanded to not teach in the name of Jesus anymore? “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard?” (Acts 4:19-20).
   3. Jeremiah 20:9: “Then I said, ‘I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones. I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.’”
   4. Ezekiel was told to preach to the people “whether they hear, or whether they refuse” (Ezekiel 3:11).
2. We honor God by speaking only what He has spoken.
   1. Here is one of the many ways in which we should be like Jesus, because this is how He honored His Father.
   2. Follow me as we go through some passages in the Book of John. I want you to see how Jesus repeatedly emphasized the content of His teaching—that He taught only what the Father gave Him to teach.
      1. John 7:14-18; 8:28; 12:49-50; 14:24; 17:8.
   3. If I teach my doctrine, I honor myself. If I teach some other man’s doctrine, I honor that man. If I teach only what God has revealed in Scripture, I honor Him.
   4. “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).
3. We honor God by obeying everything He has spoken.
   1. It’s strange how some like to belittle commandment keeping, as if obedience to God is somehow a bad thing.
   2. The fact of the matter is that we are doing much more than commandment keeping. We honor God when we fully submit to His will, when we make it our desire to do everything He wills us to do.
   3. And that full submission is clearly taught in several passages:
      1. Matthew 28:20: “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”
      2. Acts 3:22-23.
      3. 2 Corinthians 2:9.
      4. 2 Corinthians 10:5—extends even to our thoughts.
4. When we dishonor God through disobedience, we honor Him by confessing our sin.
   1. Do you remember Achan from the O.T., the man who took the things from Jericho he wasn’t supposed to? He dishonored God.
      1. But look at what Joshua tells him in Joshua 7:19.
   2. We honor God with confession of sin because we’re essentially saying, “God, you were right, and I was wrong.”
   3. Let’s make sure, though, that this confession is accompanied by repentance. Confession is nothing but a sham unless accompanied by this decision to turn away from sin.
   4. When we return to God with confession and repentance, we give Him the opportunity to do what He delights in doing—forgive us of our sins.
5. We honor God by avoiding things which even seem dishonorable.
   1. Do you remember how Paul was involved in collecting money for the poor saints in Jerusalem? Appeals were made to churches in Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia.
   2. One thing stipulated in this was that these churches appoint messengers to travel with Paul.
   3. Why? 2 Corinthians 8:20-21 explains.
      1. If you’re in your neighbor’s watermelon patch, don’t tie your shoes.”
      2. I try to avoid being alone with any woman other than my wife.
      3. I hope you young people are opposed to dancing, and I hope your parents are opposed to letting you go. But what about going if “we don’t dance”? Sorry, but many folks will assume you did.
   4. In avoiding things like these, we’re not just protecting our name; we’re protecting His name. We wear the name of Christ everywhere we go, and so let’s not give any one any reason to blaspheme His name.
6. We honor God by not defiling the temple in which He dwells.
   1. If you’re familiar with N.T. teaching, you know the temple of which we speak.
   2. One of the ways we can defile that temple is by using it for sexual immorality.
      1. 1 Corinthians 6:13-20.
      2. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.
   3. We dishonor God…
      1. When we have sexual relations before marriage.
      2. When we have sexual relations with someone other than our spouse.
      3. When we have sexual relations with someone of the same sex.
7. We honor God by honoring others before ourselves.
   1. Romans 12:10.
   2. Philippians 2:3-4, and then notice how Christ is offered as an example in the following verses.
   3. We honor God by honoring others first because that’s the very virtue on display when Christ offered Himself on the cross.
8. We honor God by honoring those in positions of authority.
   1. Beginning with parents. Ephesians 6:1-2.
   2. Children, take that same respectful, obedient attitude when you go to school, and to all your extracurricular activities. Show it to all your teachers, administrators, coaches, band leaders, etc.
   3. Of course, this also extends to governing authorities. 1 Peter 2:13-17.
9. We honor God by giving special honor to those who honor Him—to those who do His work, to those whose minds are set on the things that matter most to Him.
   1. Psalms 15:1 asks the question, “Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? One of the answers—one who “honors those who fear the Lord” (Psalms 15:4).
   2. What about the men who serve as elders in this congregation? 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
   3. But this special honor extends to others besides elders. Philippians 2:29-30.
   4. One of the ways we can honor such men and women is by speaking to our children about them, which helps them to learn the things they should value the most.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. 2 Timothy 2:19-22. Vessels of honor and dishonor. Which will you be?
2. Vessels of honor will receive their own honor in the day of Christ’s return. 1 Peter 1:6-7.