

Life Notes *Family Matters with Pastor Cory*

4. ***Honor Up, Honor Down, Honor All Around***

INTRODUCTION

America is one of the greatest nations on Earth. But one value we have moved away from is that of honor. The police, other races, politicians, even women are often punch lines in our culture.

A couple of arguments try to justify this dishonor:
“It’s just harmless fun.”

Though I love a good joke as much as the next guy, it is a slippery slope. Our dishonor sets an example and mentality for the upcoming generations.

“Some people don’t deserve to be honored.”

Though I understand that mindset, I disagree. I believe that respect is something earned; honor is something freely given.

A mentor of mine once said, “We treat people honorably, not because *they* are honorable, but because *we* are honorable.” We must establish a culture of honor in as a nation, a Church, a family, and as individuals. We should honor everyone from Presidential candidates to the bag boy at Publix. Why? Because we are the people of God! Because we are an honorable people! Jesus even said we would be known by our love for each other.

LIMITING GOD’S POWER

A lack of honor affects the spiritual realm as well. The Bible gives us a powerful picture. After Jesus shows up in His hometown, people begin treating Him as common. Mark 6 picks up the story:

“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...?” And they took offense at Him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown...” And Jesus could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.”

Imagine that. Though Jesus’ heart was to heal and restore, He did not perform certain miracles. The reason? A culture of people did not honor Him. I wonder what things God wants to do in our nation, homes, and relationships, but doesn’t because we lack honor. Here are a few ways we can turn the tide:

The Government

...he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted. And those who do so will bring judgment upon themselves. Romans 13:1-2

I am not trying to create controversy. But let’s be real. It’s thought that Paul was living under Emperor Nero when writing this letter. Nero hated Christians. He even framed them for burning Rome.

We have a right to voice our position, especially when government is acting in an evil manner. But let’s be sure we are making our voice known with an attitude of honor.

The Husband/Wife

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her... Ephesians 5:22, 25

The Kids

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

The Boss

You who are servants, be good servants to your masters—not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. 1 Peter 2:18

The Parents

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. Ephesians 6:1

Let the leader lead.

Be willing to be wrong.

Pay your taxes.

Pray over officials by name.

Stop rolling your eyes.

Say “Thank you”.

Praise positive qualities.

Watch your tone and sarcasm.

CLOSE

I know what you’re thinking! “Theoretically, this sounds great! But you don’t know my boss!” I get it! But I also get that we are all broken people. I’ve been a pastor for 13 years and I still dishonor others at times. It’s going to happen. The important thing is to realize it, repent, and restore the relationship. When we do, the Lord will do mighty things among us!