

Introduction (Mal 1:6, Ex 20:12, Eph 6:2-3)

This week we are making a shift in our series on Honor. In week one, we looked at Honoring God with our Thanksgiving. In week two, we looked at Honoring God's Name. In week three, we looked at Honoring God with Holy Lives. And last week, Pastor Bill taught on Honoring God with our Wealth. All four of these messages pertained to some aspect of Honoring God. There are nine messages in this series and five of them are about Honoring God. On Christmas eve, Pastor Bill will be sharing on Honoring the Son. Christmas is not about Santa Claus. Christmas is the celebration of the coming of the Messiah. The magi came and worshiped the Son, honoring Him with their gifts of myrrh, frankincense, and incense.

Today, we are doing the first of three messages on Honoring others. Today, we will look at Honoring our Father and Mother. On January 1, we will look at Honoring One Another, and on January 8, we will look at Honoring Those in Authority. Specifically, we will look at honoring our government and spiritual authorities. We will also be ordaining Greg Richard as a pastor on January 8. Our series will wrap up on January 15 with a message about the church that God honors. God makes several promises in His word about who He will honor.

After this series on Honor, we will be diving into the book of Hebrews. That will take us into the middle of June. Then, we will do a series on the Ten Commandments. One of the ten commandments is to Honor Your Father and Mother. Our message today is one of two messages on Honoring our Father and Mother. Since I am doing the message today, Pastor Bill Bice will be giving the message in the next series on Honoring Your Father and Mother.

I have always looked at repetitive themes as something that God is trying to emphasize to us. In the Scriptures, when a word was repeated, it brings emphasis and importance to what is being said. For example, Jesus said in John 6:47, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life." He was emphasizing the point that we must believe in Him to have eternal life.

(John 6:47) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

When a dream or vision is repeated, it also show emphasis. For example, when God gave Pharaoh a dream, he repeated it to show emphasis. In this case, this was something that God had determined and was going to bring it about quickly.

(Gen 41:25-32) "Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do....{32} "Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about."

When my father was still teaching, when he got to a very important point, he would tell the class to wake up and pay attention to this important point he was going to make. As a shepherd who tries to keep his ears open to what my Father in heaven is speaking, the repeating of this message tells me that I need to pay close attention to what He is speaking to me, and to our congregation. Why is the message so important? It is important because it is a foundational message. Honoring our Father and Mother is the foundation of our relationships with people. It is also foundational to our relationship with God, the Father. Since our vision is to be a people that love God with all our hearts, and to also

love one another, it is crucial that we understand this principle.

Honor Your Father and Mother

1. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationships with People
2. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of our Relationship with Authorities
3. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationship with God

1. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationships with People

In our Introduction to this series a few weeks ago I mentioned that there were two books in the Bible that focused on honor. In the New Testament, Paul wrote Timothy so that people would know how to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God.

(1 Tim 3:14-15) “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; {15} but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

Throughout the book, Paul talks about honoring God and honoring people. He tells us to honor widows. He tells us to honor pastors. He tells servants to honor their masters. In chapter five, Paul said, “do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.” Notice the family relationships. **Learning to honor other people begins in the home.** It begins with learning to honor your father and mother, and continues with learning how to honor your brothers and sisters. Then, what is learned at home is applied in the church of the living God. We are to treat people in the church in the same way we treat our family members at home. It all begins with learning to honor our Fathers and Mothers. This is foundational in our relationships with people.

(1 Tim 5:1-2) “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, {2} the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

When Karen and I decided to home school our children, it was not a real popular thing to do. There were many areas of the country where it was frowned upon. Today, it is a much more widely accepted way of educating your children. We received a lot of negative feedback. One of the more common things that we heard was that our children were not going to be socially developed. They would not learn to get along with other people if we kept them at home. What I have found is that most children who are home schooled have excellent social skills. They are usually very polite and respectful to their parents and to other people. They have been taught to honor their father and mother. They have been taught how to interact with their brothers and sisters. Because they have learned how to interact with their family members, it is natural for them to interact in the same way with those outside the home. We have found that the negative charges against home schooling our children were 100% incorrect. The results have been excellent.

Being with other children your age all day does not necessarily teach you how to interact with others. In fact, children can actually learn some poor social skills. Solomon spoke about this in Proverbs. He said, “the companion of fools suffers harm, but he who walks with the wise will become wise.” Just hanging around other children does not make you wise. Hanging around with the wise helps you

become wise. Hanging around other children with foolishness bound up in their hearts, does not make you wise; it could cause you to suffer harm.

(Pr 13:20) “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

This message is not intended to be a plug for home schooling. We support families that send their children to public schools, private schools, or keep their children at home and home school them. However, no matter what type of schooling a parent elects to do, the principle is the same. **Children must be taught to honor their parents and their siblings.** Then, they will know how to treat people outside the home.

One of the problems in society today is the absence of fathers in the homes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 24.7 million children living without a father in the United States. When there is a breakup of families, there is a consequential breakup in relationships outside the home. The lack of fathers has produced numerous problems. Listen to the following quote from the National Center for Fathering:

“More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency. The impact of fatherlessness can be seen in our homes, schools, hospitals and prisons. In short, fatherlessness is associated with almost every societal ill facing our country’s children.”

As a church, we need to do whatever we can to help strengthen marriages. If we can help Mom and Dad work things out, we can help keep families together. We have started a marriage ministry within the church. It is part of the NAME ministry. Ron and Debbie Demgar are in the process of getting certified to work with couples. We have a Valentine’s Day special event that focuses on marriage. We are going to participate with the Vineyard of North Albuquerque next year in a marriage retreat. We must strengthen the marriages so that children will grow up with a father. Children need to have a mother and father at home, and they need to learn how to honor their fathers and mothers. It is foundational to how they will treat everyone else.

2. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of our Relationship with Authorities

Honoring our fathers is not just a foundation for how to interact with others, it is a foundation for our relationship with authorities. One of the things that fathers do is teach their children to obey. Fathers set boundaries for their children. In Ephesians 6, Paul instructs children to “obey their parents in the Lord for this is right.” **Fathers and mothers set boundaries for their children**, and it is fathers who generally enforce them. Mothers do more nurturing, while fathers do more instruction and disciplining. Teaching children to obey is part of honoring your father and mother. After Paul instructs children to obey, he quotes from Deuteronomy 5:16 and Exodus 20:12, “Honor your father and mother so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.” He also inserts his own commentary, that this is the first commandment with a promise. There are some rewards for us when we honor our parents.

(Eph 6:1-3) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR

FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”

For children, honoring our parents means that we are going to obey them. We are going to listen to them, and follow their instructions. We are also going to honor them with our attitudes, facial expressions, and words. Some people ask me about what age they have to be before they do not have to obey their parents. The answer to that question is in Genesis 2:25, which says that when people leave their parents to be joined to a spouse, they no longer have to obey their parents. They still have to honor their parents, but they are no longer under the obligation to obey their parents. This teaching goes contrary to what our society tries to teach our young people. In our society, we think of reaching a certain age where you do not have to obey. In Scripture, we are under our parents authority until we get married. That is why in a marriage ceremony, the pastor will ask the question, “who gives this bride away?” The father and mother give their daughter away and she comes under the authority of her husband. The young man leaves his father and mother and is no longer under their authority.

(Gen 2:24) “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

We live in a difficult time. Paul writes that in the last days difficult times will come. Among other things, people will be disobedient to parents. This speaks of societal chaos, and I cannot help but believe that the breakdown of the family is responsible for much of these woes. When children do not learn to obey and honor their parents, they will have a difficult time obeying and honoring others in authority. This produces chaos in society, and there will be difficult times that follow.

(2 Tim 3:1-4) “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. {2} For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, {3} unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, {4} treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”

I mentioned that after we get married and are out from our parents authority, we do not have to obey, but we still must honor our parents. Obedience to parents is not the only way of honoring our parents. In Mark 7:9-13, we find an account of Jesus speaking to the Pharisees and scribes about honoring parents. They were asking Jesus why His disciples did not wash their hands before eating. Jesus responded by talking to them about setting aside the commandments of God in order to keep the traditions of men. The religious leaders would say that their money was “Corban,” or given to God. Because they had supposedly given their money to God, it was not available to help their father or mother. Jesus told them that they were setting aside the commandments of God in order to keep their traditions. They invalidated the word of God with their traditions and by not honoring their parents with their money. **One of the ways that we can honor our parents is by helping them in their times of need.** They may need money. They may need care. They may need transportation or something else. We honor our parents by taking care of their physical needs. There are many ways to honor our parents.

(Mark 7:9-13) “He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. {10} “For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE

PUT TO DEATH'; {11} but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' {12} you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; {13} thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

When I moved to Albuquerque, I did it to honor my parents. None of my sisters live in the area, and I wanted to move here to take care of them as they got older. I try to call them every day. I generally take my lunches over to their house and eat with them. I serve them in many ways. I change light bulbs out. I do home repairs. I put covers over their faucets in the winter. I put sugar water in their humming bird feeders. I do their dishes. I look around and notice what needs to be done, and I try to meet those needs. One of their needs is to find out what is going on. I tell them about the business. I tell them about new projects or opportunities. I try to keep them posted on everything in the business. They love to hear what is going on. My time with them honors them. I call them every day to check on them. I fill up my mother's car with gas. I take my father to get shaves and hair cuts. I look for ways to serve them and honor them. I may not have to obey them as a child, but I am still required to honor them.

We will look at honoring our authorities in a few weeks. Where do we learn to honor our authorities? We learn to honor our authorities in the home. When a child does not learn to honor his father, he will have a difficult time honoring other authority figures in his/her life. When a child is abused by a father or mother, that child also has a difficult time relating to other authorities in his life. The natural trust that a child has for his/her parents has been violated, and the person will have a difficult time trusting other authority figures as an adult. If this has been your experience, God wants to heal you of those hurts. He wants to be the Father to you that you never had. He wants to protect you. He wants to provide for you. He wants to encourage you. He wants to relate to you as your Father.

Most of you know that I spent three years ministering in the prisons as a chaplain. Roughly eighty percent of the incarcerated people in America grew up in a home without a father. That does not mean that if you do not have a father, you will go to prison. It just reveals the importance of a father in setting boundaries for children. When that authority figure is missing, a child does not learn to live within the societal boundaries. When people do not live within the laws of the land, there are consequences, such as prison. Honoring our fathers and mothers is foundational to learning how to obey and honor all authorities in our lives.

3. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationship with God

I have a friend who I played professional golf with for many years. He grew up with an alcoholic father. This man hid money in the freezer compartment of his refrigerator. He had a difficult time trusting God to provide for him. His father had not taken care of his family. The result was that this man had a number of other difficulties relating to God as his Father. God healed this man and taught him to trust Him as his Father. Even if you did not have a great father, God wants to be your Heavenly Father. I mention this because learning to honor your earthly father is the foundation of our relationship with our Heavenly Father. When there are breaches in that earthly relationship, there are carry-over problems relating to our Heavenly Father.

I mentioned there were two books in the Bible that focused on honor. In the New Testament, we saw in Timothy that learning to honor our fathers and mothers was foundational to all our other

relationships in the church. In the Old Testament, Malachi is about honor. He starts out, “a son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor. The principle is very clear. We learn to honor our earthly fathers so that we know how to honor our heavenly Father. In the same way we honor our earthly fathers and mothers, we are to honor God, our heavenly Father.

(Mal 1:6) “‘A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’”

People who are involved in inner healing ministry help people deal with their fathers and mothers all the time. Because of their hurts and broken relationships with their parents, they struggle with other relationships, with authorities, and with God. Once they have forgiven their fathers and mothers, they are freed up in their relationship with their heavenly Father. Once they are free to honor and bless their parents, they experience the blessings of their Heavenly Father.

Earlier we looked at Mark 7, where Jesus confronted the Pharisees and scribes for invalidating the word of God by not honoring their parents with their wealth. In the parallel account in Matthew, Jesus said, that when they violated the command of God to honor their father or mother, they were being hypocrites. They were only honoring God with their lips, not with their hearts. The way that we honor our parents is directly related to the way we honor God. If we truly want to worship God and honor Him, we must keep His commandments, and one of the most important ones is to honor our fathers and mothers.

(Matt 15:4-9) “‘For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.’ {5}” But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God,” {6} he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. {7} “You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: {8} ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. {9} ‘But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”

The way that we relate to our parents is how we learn to relate to God. God is our heavenly Father. In 2 Corinthians, Paul exhorts the church to live holy lives. He tells them not to be yoked together with the world. He asks, “what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” Then he adds, “for we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’” Paul finishes by quoting God, “And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me.” God wants to be our Father, and we have to learn to relate to our earthly fathers so that we can properly relate to Him as our Heavenly Father.

(2 Cor 6:16-18) “Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. {17} “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. {18} “And I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says the Lord Almighty.”

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He said to them, “pray, then, in this way: Our

Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.” We learn to relate to God as our Father through our earthly fathers. We learn to honor our earthly fathers so that we can honor our heavenly Father. If we do not learn to honor our natural fathers and mothers, we will have a difficult time learning to honor our heavenly Father.

(Matt 6:9) “Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.’”

Church, let me commend you for something. When we began this church, we introduced corporate prayer from the outset. Our first Sunday service was on prayer. Pastor Jack Webb came and taught on being a house of prayer. We are a house of prayer, and we have grown in this area. I commend you for the progress that you have made in the area of prayer, and specifically in the area of giving thanks and praises. This has been a difficult thing to teach our church. Corporate prayer has been new for most people, so just the idea of having regular corporate prayer that included everyone was difficult for many. In fact, we have had some people leave the church because we take time to pray corporately.

It has also been difficult because people are not in the habit of entering prayer with a time of thanksgiving and praises. When we began, I would set aside five to ten minutes for thanksgiving and praise, but people would ignore this and jump right into their prayer requests. They would not spend time hallowing God’s name. They would not enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. I was frustrated, but I was also patient. I continued to instruct and to encourage those on our leadership team at that time to spend time in thanksgivings and praise. I role-modeled it in our Leadership Team meetings. I got some help along the way. At the Vineyard Regional Conference, one of the speakers focused an entire message on coming before God with thanksgiving. I rejoiced in my heart at the outside help I was getting with our Leadership Team. Church, we have come a long way. It is easy and natural for us to begin our prayer times with thanksgivings and praises. We have been learning to honor our Heavenly Father in prayer. So, I commend all of you in this.

As I have reflected on this, I wondered why this has been such a hard thing to build into our prayer times. I think there are several reasons. First, many of us have had struggles in our relationships with our earthly fathers. We do not have a kind of relationship where we heap and lavish our praises on our fathers. We have not grown up honoring our fathers. Therefore, it is not natural for us to honor our Heavenly Father. It has been something that we have been learning to do, and it takes time. Second, we have seen God more as a Source for our needs than a Father to spend time with. As we learn to spend time with the Father, it will be more natural for us to honor God with our thanksgivings and praises. We will see that God already knows our needs and that the time spent in relating to our Father is not wasted time, but is some of the most important time we will spend with the Father. I would venture to say that the majority of time that Karen and I spend together in prayer is spent in thanksgivings and praises. We do intercede and pray about things, but we spend a lot of time in the morning honoring and hallowing our Heavenly Father.

In the account of Jesus’ visit with Mary and Martha, we correctly emphasize the importance of listening to Jesus and how Mary had chosen the best part. Mary was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. We correctly prioritize the relationship with Jesus over the service that we render. We are called to serve, and that is part of worshiping the Lord. But, **our priority should be to cultivate our relationship with Christ.** We must spend time with the Father and get to know the Father. And when we are spending time with the Father, we need to take time to give thanks and

bless the Lord. **Learn to honor your Heavenly Father in your daily time with Him.** Our time with the Lord is not just about telling Him what we want Him to do for us. It is about blessing the Lord, and finding out what is on His heart. It is listening to Him and speaking to the Lord about what is on His heart and what is on your heart.

(Luke 10:38-42) “Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. {39} She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. {40} But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." {41} But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; {42} but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

When Karen and I go on a date, I do not spend the time telling her the things that I want her to do for me. I spend the time talking about what is going on in her life and what is going on in my life. I ask her about her schedule. I ask her what she is reading in the word. I ask her about her desires. I lavish thanksgiving and praises on her. Every day I tell her how much I love and appreciate her. Our day starts and ends the same way. The first thing Karen hears every morning and the last thing she hears every night is how much I love her. Then, throughout the day, I thank her for things. I try to honor her. She does the same for me. Karen serves me and I serve her, but that is not the basis for our relationship. Our relationship was formed because we loved spending time together and doing things together. Karen has always been a fun person to be with. She has always been full of life and enthusiastic, and we love spending time together.

Our relationship with God is no different. He loves spending time with you. He loves hearing you tell Him how much you love and appreciate Him. He loves telling you how much He loves you and appreciates you. He loves spending time with you, and He wants you to get to know Him. He wants to encourage you, and build you up. He loves for you to bless Him and lift Him up. He loves to hear about what is going on in your life. He also loves to tell you what He is doing, and what is on His heart. That is relationship, and that is the best part that Mary chose.

Our relationship with our father and mother is foundational to how we relate to God the Father. It is important that we learn to honor our fathers and mothers. It honors our heavenly Father when we honor our earthly fathers. Because God is honored when we honor our fathers, He gave this commandment with a promise. **There are promises of blessings for honoring our fathers and mothers.** In Ephesians 6, Paul was quoting from Deuteronomy 5:16 and Exodus 20:12. In Deuteronomy, the promise of keeping that commandment brought the blessing that things will go well with us. There are lots of books, seminars, and courses on how to be successful in life. I am not aware of any of them that focus on one of the most important principles in life. If we want things to go well, we must learn to honor our fathers and mothers. If we want to be successful in life, we must learn to honor our fathers and mothers. God, who created all of us, also set in place spiritual laws and principles. One of these principles is that the blessings in life come from honoring our fathers and mothers.

(Eph 6:3) “So that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.”

(Deut 5:16) “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you,

that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

The other blessing that Paul mentions from honoring our father and mother came from Exodus, which says that our days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you. Paul just mentioned that we may live long on the earth. God is the only One that can lengthen our days. God is the One who can bless us and cause things to go well for us. And His blessings come to us when we honor our fathers and mothers.

(Ex 20:12) “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Just as there are blessings from honoring our father, **there are consequences for not honoring our fathers and mothers.** The law said that those who strike or speak evil of their fathers or mothers were to be put to death. God considered this principle so important that there was a death penalty for violating this law.

(Ex 21:15, 17) “And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. {17} And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.”

(Lev 20:9) “For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him.”

In Deuteronomy 27, those that treated their fathers or mothers with contempt brought about a curse on themselves. When we honor our fathers and mothers, things go well for us. When we treat our parents with contempt, we bring a curse on ourselves.

(Deu 27:16) “‘Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”

In Proverbs, Solomon wrote that those who curse, mock, or scorn their parents will walk in darkness and lose their vision. We saw in 2 Timothy 3 that in the last days difficult times will come. Today, the vast majority of young people have no idea what they want to do in life. They lack vision in their lives. When children learn to honor their fathers and mothers, the ravens and eagles will not remove their vision for their lives. God has plans for our lives, but those plans can be hidden from us when we do not honor our fathers and mothers. Our relationship with our parents is tied into our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

(Pr 20:20) “Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.”

(Pr 30:17) “The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.”

Conclusion

As we come to a close this morning, there may be some of you who have not had a good relationship with your father and mother. Your father or mother may have done some things to you that did not

reflect the things our Heavenly Father would do. God wants to heal you of your past hurts. He wants you to have a proper relationship with them, but He also wants you to be able to relate properly to Him. This might be a process, which includes some counseling. If this is you this morning, we would like to pray with you. Let that process begin this morning. Let us agree with you in prayer, and seek His guidance on how He wants to bring restoration and healing.

There may be some who have never entered into a relationship with our Father in heaven. He knows you. He created you. He formed you in your mother's womb. He knows everything about you. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He knows the number of days given to you before you were born. He knows the gifts and abilities that He has given you. He knows the plans He has for you, plans for welfare, and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. He wants you to get to know Him. If you have never come into a relationship with Him, let me encourage you to start one this morning.

The Scriptures teach us that our sins have separated us from God. However, God, the Father, sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins so that our relationship with Him could be restored. We can enter into that relationship through receiving Jesus Christ. If you would like to receive Christ this morning, there are two requirements. First, we must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for our sins, and was raised from the dead. Second, we must confess Jesus as Lord. The Scriptures teach us that we must believe that Christ was raised from the dead and we must confess with that Jesus is Lord. If you believe, you can simply pray a prayer like this.

Father God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins, and come into my life. I confess You to be My Lord. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Coming into a relationship with Christ is very simple. It is not by works. It is simply by receiving Christ by faith. The Bible says that we can know that we have eternal life. John wrote that he who has the Son of God has eternal life; he who does not have the Son does not have life. If you prayed to receive Christ, you can be confident about your salvation. If you did pray that prayer, please see Pastor Bill or myself after the service. We would like to pray with you.

There may be others that have been coming to EMVC for a while. You have decided that this is your church family, and you would like to become a part of it. If that is you, please let us Pastor Bill or myself know at the end of the service.

Let's pray.

Introduction (John 6:47, Gen 41:25-32)

1. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationships with People (1 Tim 3:14-15)

- Learning to honor other people begins in the _____. (1 Tim 5:1-2, Pr 13:20)
- Children must be _____ to honor their parents and their siblings.

2. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of our Relationship with Authorities

- Fathers and mothers set _____ for their children. (Eph 6:1-3, Gen 2:24, 2 Tim 3:1-4)
- One of the ways that we can honor our parents is by _____ them in their times of need. (Mark 7:9-13)

3. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationship with God (Mal 1:6, Matt 15:4-9)

- The way that we relate to our _____ is how we learn to relate to God. (2 Cor 6:16-18, Matt 6:9)
- Our _____ should be to cultivate our relationship with Christ.
- Learn to _____ your Heavenly Father in your daily time with Him. (Luke 10:38-42)
- There are promises of _____ for honoring our fathers and mothers. (Eph 6:3, Deut 5:16, Ex 20:12)
- There are _____ for not honoring our fathers and mothers. (Ex 21:15, 17, Lev 20:9, Deu 27:16, Pr 20:20, 30:17)

Introduction (John 6:47, Gen 41:25-32)

1. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationships with People (1 Tim 3:14-15)

- Learning to honor other people begins in the _____. (1 Tim 5:1-2, Pr 13:20)
- Children must be _____ to honor their parents and their siblings.

2. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of our Relationship with Authorities

- Fathers and mothers set _____ for their children. (Eph 6:1-3, Gen 2:24, 2 Tim 3:1-4)
- One of the ways that we can honor our parents is by _____ them in their times of need. (Mark 7:9-13)

3. Honoring our Fathers is the Foundation of Our Relationship with God (Mal 1:6, Matt 15:4-9)

- The way that we relate to our _____ is how we learn to relate to God. (2 Cor 6:16-18, Matt 6:9)
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