

Introduction

Several months ago I was preparing for the first message of this series on honor, and I read every verse on honor in the Bible. One of the passages that stood out to me was how Eli honored his sons above God. God rebuked him for this and said, “for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.” We are called to honor God and one another, but there is a priority. We are to honor God above every other relationship. The passage stood out to me, and even though I included it in that first message, there was more to the passage than I taught that morning.

Then, a few weeks later in my quiet time, I was reading Psalm 91. Towards the end, God says that He will rescue and honor a certain person. I went back to read about who the Lord was saying that He would honor. The person that God honors dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shadow of the Almighty. The person that God honors trusts in God and calls upon the Lord. That was the second time I read something about the person that God will honor. I took time that day to reread all the passages in the Bible that mention honor. I was specifically looking for any passages that speak about the person that God will honor.

I found one other passage where God promises to honor someone. In John 12:26, Jesus said that the person who serves Him and follows Him, the Father will honor him. I had three passages where the Father promises to honor someone. I wrote them down and began praying about the passages. I was impressed to add another message to the series, and to wrap up this series with a message on the church that God honors. I ran it by Pastor Bill, and he loved the idea. So, this morning we are wrapping up this series with a message on the church that God honors. The church is people. I believe that when a body of believers honors God, He will honor those people that make up that local church. God honors the church that honors Him. God honors the church that trusts in Him. God honors the church that serves Him.

The Church That God Honors

1. God honors the church that honors Him. (1 Samuel 2:30)
2. God honors the church that trusts in Him. (Psalm 91:1-16)
3. God honors the church that serves Him. (John 12:26)

We have looked at various ways to honor God. We honor God with our sacrifices of thanksgivings. He does not need our bulls and lambs; all the cattle in the world belong to Him. He is honored with our sacrifices of thanksgiving. We studied how we are to honor God’s name. We are to honor Him by living holy lives. We are to honor God with our wealth. We are to honor the Son. All of these are ways for us to honor God. Then, we looked at how we are to honor one another. It starts with learning to honor our fathers and mothers. That is the foundation for how we are to treat everyone. Finally, we looked at how we are to honor our authorities. All of these messages were about honoring God and one another.

Today’s message is about who God is going to honor. It is my prayer that this will be an encouragement to all of you. I pray that it will be an encouragement for you to honor God, trust Him, and serve Him. I desire for us to be the church that honors, trusts, and serves Him. But, beyond that, I pray that you are encouraged about being a church that God honors.

Before we get into the actual message, let me say a couple of words about wanting honor. The Pharisees and Sadducees wanted to be honored. They were looking for honor from men. Church, **we are not to seek the honor of men. We are to seek the honor of God.** Seeking after the honor and praise of men is a trap. It leads to a life of compromise. We are not looking for the honor of men. Even though we are called to honor one another, we are not looking to receive the honor of men.

Second, we are not looking for honor in this life. **We must have an eternal perspective of honor.** All of the apostles except John were martyred. They were not honored in their death. In fact, they were not honored in their lives. When one young man told Jesus he wanted to follow Him, Jesus told him that the Son of Man had no where to lay His head. Jesus was not looking for honor here on earth. He knew that He would be honored and glorified when He went back to the Father.

(Luke 9:57-58) “As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." {58} And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

In Paul’s defense of his apostleship in 2 Corinthians 11, he mentions a few of the things that he had endured in his ministry. He had been in constant danger. He was in dangers from rivers, robbers, his countrymen, and from Gentils. He was in dangers in the city, the wilderness, on the sea, and from false brethren. He was in labor and hardship. He had many sleepless nights. He was in hunger and thirst, and was often without food. He was in cold and exposure. This does not sound like the prosperity doctrine that we often hear about. This sounds like a man who was not looking for comfort, security, and honor here on earth. Paul was laying up treasures in heaven. He was trying to be faithful to the calling and ministry that he had received, and he knew that there was a prize in heaven waiting for him. As a church, if God honors us now, great. But, you can count on this, that God will fulfill His promises to us. If you and I honor God, He promises to honor us. It may not be here in this life, but He will honor us. God promises to honor those who honor Him, trust in Him, and serve Him. Let’s look at the Church That God Honors.

(2 Cor 11:26-27) “I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; {27} I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.”

1. God honors the church that honor Him. (1 Samuel 2:30)

The first passage we are going to look at is 1 Samuel 2:30, where God rebuked Eli for honoring his sons above God. He then tells Eli that He will honor those who honor Him, and those that despise God will be lightly esteemed. I believe this is true of a church as well. God will honor a church full of people that honor Him.

(1 Samuel 2:30) “Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the LORD declares, 'Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.’”

Let's take a minute to look at why the Lord said this to Eli. What was Eli doing that provoked this kind of response from the Lord. In verse 29, He asked, "why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?"

(1 Sam 2:29) "Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?"

There are two things that stand out to me in that verse. First, God had given specific commands about the sacrifices and offerings. Eli and his sons were not following God's commands. They were not honoring God by being obedient to God's word. God's commands are not cafeteria items that we can pick and choose as we go through the serving line. That is the way that many of us live. We like this command so we do it. No, I don't like that, so I am free from the Law, and I don't have to obey that command. I am free to do whatever I want. **We must honor God by keeping His commands.**

While we are free from the Law, we have been freed so that we can serve God. Paul wrote that we are a slave to the one we obey. Are we a slave of sin or a slave of righteousness? God set us free from sin, so that we can serve Him. We serve Him by doing what He says to do. Jesus asked a good question in Luke 6, "why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" When we call Jesus our Lord, we are saying that we are submitted to Him and will do what He says. We are not free to ignore Jesus. We are not free to ignore God's word. Jesus said, "everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them..." When we confess Jesus as Lord, we obey His words. Eli's sons were not obeying God's word.

(Luke 6:46-47) "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? {47} Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:"

I was doing some counseling one time, and I said to the person, "you must forgive your husband." She said, I won't do that. I won't forgive him. Church, we cannot pick and choose what we are going to obey and what we are not going to obey. Jesus said, "a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, that you also love one another." We are commanded to love one another just like Christ loved us. How did Christ love us? He laid down His life for us and forgave us of all of our sins.

(John 13:34) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

In 1 Corinthians 13, we find out some characteristics of love. We find out the practical applications of love. Paul writes that when we love, we do not take into account a wrong suffered. That means that we forgive the other person, and don't hold it against the person. Loving others means that we forgive others. Love bears and endures all things. Church, people get so offended at one another. We have to learn to bear and endure. We have to learn not to be provoked. We have to learn to forgive and not take into account a wrong that is suffered. We are commanded to love one another. God honors those that honor His commands. Let's be a church that honors God's commands to us.

(1 Cor 13:4-7) "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not

arrogant, {5} does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, {6} does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

The second thing that stands out about the passage in 1 Samuel 2 is that Eli and his sons took the fat portion of the offerings for themselves. The fat portion belonged to the Lord. They took the best for themselves. **We are to honor God with the fat portion of what He gives to us.** We are to give Him our best. We are not to take that which belongs to God and use it for our own desires.

Recently, I read about a family that decided that they were going to honor God with their tithes and offerings. They sold their big house and downsized. The reduction in their new house payments allowed them to honor God with their tithes and offerings. God will honor that family. They took some radical steps of action to honor God.

Another family bought a new truck. The man was telling me about the great deal he got on his truck and what his payments were on the truck. In my mind, I was thinking, “there is nothing wrong with the truck that you had.” This man and his wife were not tithing. They were taking the fat portion of what they received and spending it on things in this life. They did not have an eternal perspective. They did not have the heart attitude to honor God with their wealth. Eli and his son were not honoring God with their wealth. Eli allowed his sons to do these things, and by allowing that, he honored his sons above God.

One day I was having lunch with a couple of families that had been part of another church. The former pastor of that church was there, and he was talking about giving. He said that a poor lady had come to their church and given an offering. He told her to keep it because she needed it more than the church. I rebuked that pastor. I told him that we should never counsel people to disobey God. We should teach people to honor God with their tithes and offerings. If the lady needed help, the church should set aside part of the tithes and give to the poor, orphan and widow. That is what God commands us to do. That pastor should have taken money from their benevolence fund and helped the lady, but he should never have encouraged her not to honor God with her tithes and offerings.

Church, God will honor the church that honors Him. He will honor the church that honors Him by keeping His commands and His word. God will honor the church that honors Him with their wealth. He will honor the church that honors Him. My desire is that we would be a church that honors Him.

2. God honors the church that trusts in Him. (Psalm 91:1-16)

God honors a church that honors Him. Second, God honors a church that trusts in Him. We want to be a church that trusts in Him for all things. Let me finish the story about the lunch with the former pastor. One of the reasons that it is important for the poor to give to the Lord, is that it is one of the keys to getting them out of financial bondage. As a pastor, I want to teach everyone, including the poor, to honor God with their wealth. God tells us to test Him in the matter. He said that He will rebuke the devourer. He will pour out a blessing on us when we honor him with our tithes and offerings. If a poor person does not honor God with his/her finances, the poor person misses out on the blessings of provision, and the blessings of protection. We must teach people to honor God.

(Mal 3:10-11) “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house,

and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. {11} Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts."

God wants His people to be free from all bondage, including financial bondage. In Matthew 6, Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters. He continued that we cannot serve God and wealth. Oftentimes, we think that Jesus is addressing the wealthy people in this passage.

(Matt 6:24) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

But, Jesus continued, "for this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink." Church, Bill Gates, Donald Trump, and Warren Buffet are not concerned about what they will eat or drink. They are not worried about having clothes on their back. They have all these basic needs met and more. It is the people that are struggling with the necessities of life that are worried about having enough money to pay their rent and buy groceries. A person who is worried and anxious about their provisions is not trusting God. Worry and anxiety is just a symptom of where your trust is. The poor need to learn to trust God with their finances. God promises us freedom. He knows what our needs are. When we seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness, He promises to provide all these things for us. **All of us must learn to trust Him.**

(Matt 6:25-33) "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?...But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

In 1995, I had a slow start to the year. I had finished 11th on the money list in 1994, and had played very well. I had some foot surgeries at the end of 1994, and was not able to prepare properly for the 1995 season. I was making cuts nearly every week in 1995, but I was not making enough money to pay my travel or home expenses. My bank account was dwindling. By April, I had gone through a lot of money, and I was getting more anxious by the day. Then, the Lord spoke to me through Matthew 6. He revealed to me that I had been trusting in my bank account, rather than Him. He revealed to me that my anxiety was just a symptom that revealed that I was trusting in my own resources, rather than His resources. When He showed me that, I did two things. First, I repented. I said to the Lord that I was sorry for trusting in my own resources, and for not trusting in Him. I asked Him to forgive me for that sin, and to help me put my trust in Him. Second, I called up the Associate Pastor of the church where we were members, and said that I was going to win the next week. I said that God had taught me what He was trying to teach me, and now He was going to bring His provision to me. Lo and behold, the very next week I won the Tallahassee Open by five shots. It was a nationally televised event, and I was able to bring glory to God by sharing that testimony.

God honors those who trust Him. Let's look at Psalm 91. In verse 15, He says, "he will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him." Notice that the person that God is talking about is in trouble and needs to be rescued. The person that God is promising to honor is calling upon Him. The person that God promises to honor is trusting in God in every circumstance of his life. It may be financial troubles. It may be physical protection or dangers.

It may be physical sickness or disease. God wants us to trust in Him. He wants us to call upon Him when we have needs. He will honor those who trust in Him and call upon Him.

(Ps 91:15) “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.”

The Psalmist begins by saying, “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust.” God was going to rescue this person and honor Him because He trusted in God for his protection. He made God His shelter, refuge, and fortress. He trusted in God.

(Ps 91:1-2) “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. {2} I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

In the remaining part of Psalm 91, the Psalmist talks about being delivered from the trapper, and from deadly pestilence. He talks about not being afraid of the terror by night or the arrow that flies by day. He speaks of not being afraid of pestilence or of plaques. He said that He will give His angels charge concerning us, to guard us in all our ways. It does not matter what area of life that we are struggling in, God wants us to call upon Him. He wants the opportunity to provide, protect, rescue, heal, and deliver. He wants us to trust in Him, and He promises to honor those that trust Him.

(Ps 91:3-14) “For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. {4} He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. {5} You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; {6} of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. {7} A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. {8} You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. {9} For you have made the LORD, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place. {10} No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. {11} For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. {12} They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone. {13} You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down. {14} "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name.”

I want us to be a church that calls upon Him for any need that we have. If someone needs healing, we want to call upon Jehovah Rapha, our God who heals. If someone needs peace, we call upon Jehovah Shalom, our God who is our peace. If someone needs provision, we call upon Jehovah Jireh, our God who provides. If someone needs comfort, we call upon the God of all comfort. If someone needs wisdom, we call upon the only wise God, who gives us wisdom generously and without reproach. It does not matter what the need is, God wants us to trust Him, and call upon Him.

How do we learn to trust Him in every area of our lives? That is a difficult discussion. There are those who are wanting to trust God for healing, and they remove all medicines and medical counsel. Many people have died from those decisions. There are others on the other side of the spectrum, and they go to the doctor for every thing, and never call upon God for healing. I believe that we should go to God first. I have seen God heal people supernaturally. I have also seen God use doctors and medicine. My approach has always been to do whatever we can to save or to heal someone. I see doctors as

instruments that God can use, not as adversaries. I don't see it as an either/or option. I have never read where Jesus rebuked the doctors or physicians, or rebuked people for going to the physicians of His time. So, in some areas, this is a difficult discussion. No matter which camp you are in, learn to call upon God first. Here are some examples of learning to trust God in different areas.

Sometimes God puts us in circumstances where we have no where else to turn. Sometimes, He puts us through trials like the one I went through, and He uses those to build our faith. There are also things that we can do to grow in our faith. One year, I was going to Fort Myers, Florida to play in a tournament. I had won it the previous year, and I was going to defend my title. Since I knew the course, I drove down on the morning of the pro-am, and was going to use that round as my practice round. I took my son, Bill, with me. On the way, we talked about where we were going to stay. I felt led to pray that someone on my pro-am team that day would invite us to stay at their house for the week. So, we prayed that one of the amateurs in my group would invite us to their house. Well, as we were walking off the 18th green, one of the amateurs asked me where we were staying. I told him that we had not found a place yet. He asked us to stay at his house. He had a parrot that stayed on his shoulder and talked a lot. My son, Bill, had a wonderful week at their house. Most importantly, his faith had grown tremendously. He had learned a lesson in trusting God for a place to stay.

When we lived in Orlando, we bought a house on Boreas Drive, which is on the east side of Orlando. There were no trees in the yards of that neighborhood. I prayed for the Lord to give me an oak tree in the front yard. I could have gone to Home Depot and bought one for ten dollars. That would have been easy. Instead, I asked God for an oak tree. I wrote it down in my prayer notebook, and faithfully prayed for that oak tree. One day I came home from work and there were two oak trees planted in my front yard. Furthermore, there was a note from Orange County on my door, with instructions on how to take care of my oak trees. Nobody else on our street got trees from the county. Everyone wanted to know why they came and planted two trees in my yard. I was able to pull out my prayer notebook and show them that I had been praying for God to give me an oak tree. I trusted God for an oak tree, and He provided one. **When we trust God to provide, our faith pleases God.** Hebrews tells us that without faith it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. God honors those who trust Him. God will honor a church that seeks Him and trusts in Him.

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

Let me give you another quick story. A little while later, I asked God for a cocktail tree. A cocktail tree is one that has several types of fruit grafted into it. My father has a cocktail tree with plums and nectarines on it. I had one that had three different types of pears on it. I prayed for a cocktail tree with grapefruit, oranges, and lemons. After Karen gave birth to our son, David, a nursery owner in Apopka, Florida, which was a small town about twenty-five miles away, heard that we had just had our sixth child. I had never met the man, but he somehow heard about me at his church. He called to congratulate me on the birth of our son. Then, he said, “you probably have never heard of a cocktail tree, but I would like to give you a cocktail tree as a baby gift.” I told him that I knew about cocktail trees, and had been praying for one for several months; this was a specific answer to prayer. Again, the point of this testimony is to build up your faith, and to encourage you to trust God for every need and desire in your life. As you learn to trust God, it pleases Him, and He promises to honor those who trust in Him.

3. God honors the church that serves Him. (John 12:26)

God honors those who honor Him. He honors those who trust Him. Third, God honors those who serve Him. In John 12, Jesus said, “if anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.” God promises to honor those who serve Him. God will honor a church full of people that serve Him.

(John 12:26) “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

Pastor Bill said that he was pleasantly surprised at how many people in our congregation serve the Lord. When he developed the five branches of corporate outreach, he was excited about how enthusiastic everyone has been, and how people have jumped right in to serve. I want to commend you for being a church that serves. God will honor this church because we serve Him.

I want to mention several things about serving. First, in Ephesians 4:16, Paul tells us that **the church will grow and mature when every joint supplies**, according to the proper working of each individual part. When people join our church, we have a membership interview form. We want to find out the spiritual gifts that God is bringing into the body. We also want to know the passions and desires of those coming into the body. We want to help people find their place of service in the body. We are not wanting to be a gathering place where everyone comes to watch a few people do church. We are a body, and God wants every member of the body to serve. He wants every joint to supply. He wants each individual part to be working properly. That is what God wants, and He honors a church where all the members are serving.

(Eph 4:16) “from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

We are developing three classes that will become part of our new member process. One of the classes will be on Essential Doctrines. The second class will be on Small Group Ministry. We want everyone to be plugged into a small group. We have four Life Groups right now, and most of you are already part of a Life Group. If you are not, let me encourage you to become part of a Life Group. The third class will be on Discovering Your Spiritual Gift and Place of Service. We want to help people find their proper place in the body, and to begin serving. We understand the importance of serving. The body is not going to grow and mature unless every joint supplies.

The second thing that I want to mention about serving is that it is the example that Jesus set for us. Mark wrote that **Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve** and give His life as a ransom for all. As we come to church, we should come with the same attitude, not to be served, but to serve.

(Mark 10:45) “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Jesus was very clear to His disciples that they were to be servant leaders. They frequently argued about which of them was the greatest. Jesus told them that the greatest was the least of all. He told them that they were not to lord over people like the Gentiles, but to learn to be servants of all. He

told them they He was the One among them that was serving them.

(Luke 22:24-27) “And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. {25} And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' {26} But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. {27} For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

In John 13, Jesus washed the disciples feet. Afterwards, He asked them, “Do you know what I have done to you?” He continued by saying that He was both Teacher and Lord, and yet He still washed their feet. He told them that they needed to wash one another’s feet. He concluded by saying that He gave them an example to follow. His example was not just for them; it was for all leaders. It is not just an example for leaders. **Jesus set an example for all of us.** We have all been called to serve one another and wash one another’s feet. God will honor a church that washes one another’s feet.

(John 13:12-15) “So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? {13} You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. {14} If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. {15} For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

When Karen and I moved here from Atlanta, we started going to a church in the East Mountains. I met with the pastor, and I asked him, “what needs to be done? Is there a ministry that needs help?” He told me that they did not have a men’s ministry, and if I could help them with that, that would be great. I asked him if there were other areas that needed help, and he said that doing the men’s ministry would be enough. I started a men’s ministry. That is how I met James and Jeff. When the Lord called me to plant this church, the men’s ministry had grown to over forty men.

Karen served in the children’s ministry, teaching every week. She also helped with the preparation of the food for the men’s ministry. I helped Karen with her children’s ministry, and led worship for her class. Karen and I were there to serve in whatever capacity we could. We did not demand a place of ministry. We asked the leadership team what areas of ministry they needed help in. Even though I was an ordained pastor, and had been called to lead and to teach, I was never asked to preach there during my five years at that church. I did not demand that they let me teach. I did ask the Lord how long He was going to keep me on the bench. I told Him that I did not like being a bench warmer. They never asked me to preach. They never invited me to join their leadership team. They had men that really should not have been on their team. I did not demand position. Jesus laid down His position, and He came to serve and lay His life down. That should be our attitude. We should serve in whatever capacity the church has a need.

There is another side to this coin. I must be honest with you; I was not fulfilled. God had called me to do much more than I was doing. It is important to find out where people are gifted, anointed, and called to serve. I was called to oversee and pastor a church. People will become frustrated, and lose interest if they cannot serve in the areas of ministry that they have been called. **We must recognize the gifts and callings in people, and help them take their rightful place in ministry.** We must encourage people to serve where they are gifted. We must encourage them while they are ministering

in their respective areas. People need to be recognized, encouraged, and appreciated.

A couple of years ago, we had a lady in our congregation who had been called to children's ministry. This lady had successfully led children's ministries at a number of different churches, usually in a paid position. At that time our children's ministry was not being run very well at all, and could have greatly benefitted from this woman's gifting and service. She was told by the leader of children's ministry that she was not needed in our children's ministry. The woman left our church, saying that she needed to be faithful to the calling God had given her. It is important to find out what area of ministry people are passionate about, and then help them to be properly fitted into that ministry.

Some people need further equipping so that they can serve. **Part of a leader's responsibility is to equip the saints for the work of service.** We should always be trying to equip people for the work of ministry. We should equip people to work in the media ministry. There is some training that is required in order to work the sound board. We should equip people to lead Life Groups. We try to have Life Group Leader meetings every couple of months. We have shared some principles of teaching, principles of leading and facilitating, and various other things with them. We should equip people in every area of service. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4 that God "gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." Leaders need to equip people for the work of ministry. The result is the body will be built up, and will grow to a mature man. When the leaders equip the body, and body begins to serve, God is honored, and He promises to honor a church that serves Him.

(Eph 4:11-13) "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; {13} until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Conclusion

Church, Paul taught us that the way we are to conduct ourselves in the household of God is to honor God, and to honor one another. In this series, we have looked at the various ways that we honor God. We honor Him with our thanksgivings and praises. We honor Him with our lives. We honor Him with our tithes and offerings. We have also looked at how we are to honor one another. We are to learn how to honor one another in the home. That is where it begins. We are to honor our fathers and mothers. We are to honor others as we would honor those in our family. We are to honor each other in the church, whether poor or rich. God shows no favoritism or partiality. We are to honor kings, governors, and all those in positions of authority. We are to honor our pastors. God has called us to honor everyone.

In this final message, we have looked at the church God honors. He promises to honor those who honor Him. If we will heed the messages in this series about honoring Him and honoring one another, He promises to honor us. God also promises to honor those who trust Him and call upon Him. We want to be a church that learns to trust Him and call upon Him in every matter. God is honored when

we call upon Him, and He promises to honor us when we trust Him. Finally, God promises to honor those who serve Him. We want to be a church full of servants.

During the past couple months as we have been going through this series on honor, if the Holy Spirit has convicted you about not honoring Him, I am going to ask You to get right with the Lord. I ask you to repent before the Lord. If you have not been honoring the Lord with thanksgiving, repent and make a conscientious effort to work on this area during 2017. If you have not been honoring the Lord with your tithes and offerings, repent and begin to honor God with your tithes. If you are not currently serving, ask the Lord where you should begin serving. If you need help, ask your Life Group leader to help you find a place to serve. Ask one of the pastors to help you find a place to serve. We would be happy to help you find a place to serve.

This morning, if God has led you to become a part of the East Mountain Vineyard Church, I am going to ask you to come forward and let us know that God has led you to become part of this body.

This morning, if you need prayer for anything, we would welcome the opportunity to pray with you. Give us the privilege of calling upon the Lord with you.

Let's pray.

Introduction

- We are not to seek the honor of _____. We are to seek the honor of _____.
- We must have an _____ perspective of honor. (Luke 9:57-58, 2 Cor 11:26-27)

1. God honors the church that honor Him. (1 Samuel 2:29-30)

- We must honor God by keeping His _____. (Luke 6:46-47, John 13:34, 1 Cor 13:4-7)
- We are to honor God with the _____ of what He gives to us.

2. God honors the church that trusts in Him. (Psalm 91:1-16, Mal 3:10-11, Matt 6:24)

- All of us must learn to _____ Him. (Matt 6:25-33, Ps 91:1-15)
- When we trust God to provide, our faith _____ God. (Heb 11:6)

3. God honors the church that serves Him. (John 12:26)

- The church will grow and mature when _____ joint supplies. (Eph 4:16)
- Jesus did not come to be served, but to _____. (Mark 10:45, Luke 22:24-27)
- Jesus set an _____ for all of us. (John 13:12-15)
- We must _____ the gifts and callings in people, and _____ them take their rightful place in ministry.
- Part of a leader's responsibility is to _____ the saints for the work of service. (Eph 4:11-13)

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