

Honoring God/A Foundation of a Spirit-  
Led Life, November 29, 2021

Speaking of Honor, I think we need to let Chris know how much we appreciate him for leading us through the last few weeks with his messages.

As I was reflecting on what we have been learning as a church throughout this year, and even recently with Chris' teaching, and specifically on the role of the Holy Spirit and our involvement/participation with the Holy Spirit, I want to talk about honoring the Lord.

In God's Word we find God saying in **Isaiah 48:10**- "...my glory I give to no other."

Also we read in **1st Corinthians 3:16**- "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

God is entirely holy, He is totally separate from us in every way. And He is in the process of changing us/conforming us to the image of His Son-perfection. We have talked about this many, many times but we have not specifically looked into what honoring the Lord means in our life. Paul mentions in Romans 9 honorable vessels and dishonorable vessels referring to saved and unsaved people. We, as saved people, chosen people, adopted into God's family and Kingdom, are now seen as honorable, yet there is a role we must play to act honorable.

In further preparing us to receive this, I will again mention that our position is righteous before God, (Romans 5:1) because of salvation, yet we are not holy. We have been made honorable before a holy God, because we have been washed clean from our sin, yet we are working out our salvation in our sanctification.

Walking by the Spirit/keeping in step with the Spirit/being filled with the spirit (all things we will look at on Dec, 7th during sharpen), are about HOLINESS and living a life of honor to God. In our obedience to Him, we honor Jesus as Lord. And when we grieve Him or quench His Spirit's work, it is because we ultimately are seeking to honor ourself-which at its root is the sin of pride (my way is better!), and rebellion (following our old nature which was at enmity with God).

Tonight I want to simply look at:



- The works of the flesh
- The fruit and work of the Spirit
- What the Bible has to say about Honor-specifically to God
- How our whole life is to be an honoring sacrifice to Him

**Works of the Flesh:**As we read these, look for where YOU struggle

**Galatians 5:17-21**-The main idea here is that the works of the flesh and Spirit are OPPOSED to each other.

**Ephesians 4:31**-The main idea here is that the tongue can be used for wickedness (James 3:5-6) and that bitterness can be the foundation of all these other sins. We must watch what we say and how we say it-and do a "temperature check" of our hearts-where our speech originates from. "*Out of the overflow ("that which fills" in Greek) of the heart the mouth speaks.*"-Matthew 12:34.

Bitterness-a noun (to be bitter, or resentful)

Wrath-verb-an expressed passion

Anger-a noun-a swelling up-an internal disposition towards something or someone.

Clamor-an outcry, shrieking, like a wounded person emitting "unearthly" sounds

Clamou and wrath go together a lot!

Slander-"blasphémia" in Greek.-abusive language.

Malice-wickedness, wicked disposition. An underlying principle of evil which is present in a person even if not expressed.

**Colossians 3:5-8**-The main idea here is that we are to put earthly, or fleshly practices to death. We do this by what it says in the next couple verses (now that we have put on the new self, we are being renewed in knowledge after the image of our creator.) More on this later.

**Fruits/Works of the Spirit:**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**Ephesians 4:32**

**Colossians 3:12-14**

In a nutshell, the works of the flesh tear down and destroy. The works of the Spirit build up through love, which can be expressed in many forms, whether it is patience, kindness, humility, gentleness, etc.

**Honoring God:**

**Matthew 15:8**-“These people *honor* me with their lips but their *heart is far from me*”.  
Propheesied from Isaiah, this deals with the condition of the heart of Israel, and how they continued to whore after idols and the ways of the cultures that surrounded them, instead of honoring the Lord by obeying Him and His commands.

If you look at Israel's history from Exodus and into 1 Kings where Solomon built the temple, you see a continual theme of God's Holiness and specifically in regards to His place of dwelling with His people, where HE manifested His presence.

Every detail of the tabernacle (the nomadic tent that began with Moses) was given to Moses, and the Temple that was made by Solomon- the wisest man on earth, was prepared by 183,300 men, built over 7 years, and overlaid entirely in gold. If you take time to read the accounts of the tabernacle and temple, you will see equal stunning tales of precise measurements, descriptions, details that all carried meaning. God's dwelling place was to be as holy and as beautiful as humanly possible!

Even as Solomon was building it, God speaks to him something so important in **1 Kings 6:12-13**: *“Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”*

Basically God was saying, MY COVENANT HAS NOT CHANGED AND THOUGH THIS TEMPLE IS GREAT, THE HEARTS OF MY PEOPLE ARE WHAT I AM AFTER!

God even says in Hosea 6:3- *“I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice; the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”*

To dedicate this temple to God Solomon sacrificed 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep as a peace offering to the Lord. The bronze altar (measuring 30 feet long and wide) could not contain the amount of sacrifices he was making.

After the dedication, God appears to Solomon the second time (the first was in a dream where he asked for wisdom). Again the reminder is in **1 Kings 9:4- 5** *“And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walk, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever...”*

2 Chapters later, Solomon turns away from the Lord...

Jeremiah said well in **Jeremiah 17:9**-“ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick, who can understand it?”*

Church, God knew that the heart of man has always been bent on pleasing self, rather than pleasing God. This is why He sent Jesus! So that we would have an eternal re-do, a second-chance that would have everlasting ramifications.

\*Solomon offered 142,000 animals that day on the altar. God offered the 1 spotless Lamb of God.\*

The challenge of God's offering of Jesus to us is that the requirement of obedience and pursuing a relationship with God is still in existence, but the key to the beauty of the New Covenant is that we are not destroyed for our sin, and our relationship is personal, not a community or nation-wide relationship with 1 Prophet as our leader. Jesus, the head prophet, our leader/Shepherd, indwells us by the Holy Spirit.

We have become the temple. And honoring God is still important to a life that pleases Him.

As we close, let's look at Colossians 3 again.

**Here's the question:** What does an individual and corporate Christian lifestyle look like that honors God?

**Colossians 3:16-17** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing each other in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

- We seek to know the Word of God, and specifically what Jesus commanded/taught.
- We teach and correct each other based upon the Word of God
- We praise God together in thankfulness
- In all we do, whether in our speech or in our actions, we do it for God, in the name of Jesus who was sent for us as our sacrifice, so that God could inhabit us, the new covenant temple of God

It is very important to understand that we must personally honor God in our conduct with ourselves, one-another, and the church as a whole.

If God's presence (Spirit) filled the Tabernacle and the Temple in the OT, does not God still require obedience and holiness, bringing Him honor, as we (the temple) seek to be filled by His Spirit? **1st Peter 1:13-16**, and **John 15:1** say this.

One of the things I love about the Church of God is how it originated as a holiness movement.

I have heard it said before, "There is a cost to Pentecost". What the preacher at that time meant was that if we as believer's want the empowerment of the Spirit, then we must live a holy life!

In my last words to you tonight I would say this:

*Allow the Lord to have every crevice of your life. He already see's your entire life and heart. Seek to be holy. Seek to sin less. Allow the Holy Spirit to show you areas in your life that are not up to par, and as He prune's you, you will bear more fruit. As you grow in grace and in holiness, His Spirit voice will be easier to recognize in your life, whether internally (hearing him inside your mind/heart) or externally (Him showing you His guiding presence in your life through circumstances). I fear that as believer's who desire to see the Spirit of God move through us, and in our life we have traded the spiritual feast from above, and all the blessings of the Kingdom, for the rotten, moldy, earthly crumbs below that only bring spiritual starvation and death.*

We should crave the Lord and His presence and Spirit, and totally be disgusted with the ways of the world-our sin nature.

**Romans 6:12-14** and **Romans 12:1-2**