

AN HONORABLE WAY OF LIFE

By Pastor Rene Lussier

- 1) We looked at **2 families**- what kind of devotion they had for the Lord?
 - a) Elkana, Hannah and Samuel-a family who honored the Lord (Key words: worshipped, sacrificed, prayed unto the Lord)
 - b) Eli and his sons- (Priests)- (Key words: wicked before the Lord, no regard for the Lord, they were treating the Lord's offerings with contempt. "why do you scorn my sacrifice? Why do you honor your sons more than me"? "THOSE WHO HONOR ME I WILL HONOR")
 - i) God is the source of honor and dishonor. He can exalt and he can bring down...
- 2) Expressions in Heb & Greek translated as honor & applications to our lives.
 - a) Honor is an attribute that belongs to God and comes from God...
 - b) To make it heavy... our sacrifices to God... everything we do (give it your best) (effort)
 - c) How majestic and glorious is God to you? How much honor do you ascribe God?

3) HONOUR IN THE N.T.

5091 timao {tim-ah'-o}

To estimate the value; to honour, to have in honour, to revere, venerate

5092 time {tee-may'} - 43

The price or value of a person; how precious; Honor and reverence

Of the honor which one has by rank and state of office which he holds

- The way we follow Jesus as Lord and the way we serve him reveal how much we value our Master

- We talked about being called to be "Vessels of Honor not of dishonor"

2Tim 2:21 ...he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- We are also exhorted to seek glory, honor and immortality as we live our Christian life.

Roma 2:7 (NIV) To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

- This is a way of life—Are you seeking honor in view of what is immortal, eternal, Keeping in mind the prize at the finish line?

If we are to seek honor as a way of life... to live in a completely honorable way...

There are a few things that are essential for us to know and practice...

1. We are to entertain thoughts that are honorable...

Phil 4:8 NLT- And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

2. We are to honor people God commands us to honor ...

INSOCIETY

Roma 13:7 (NIV) Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

1Pet 2:17 Honor all [people]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Levi 19:15 `You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

Levi 19:32 `You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I [am] the Lord.

AT WORK

1Tim 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and [His] doctrine may not be blasphemed. (spoken against)

Ephe 6:5 (NIV) Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

Eph 6:5 MESSAGE-- Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. (another possible interpretation)

OUR PARENTS

Matt 15:4 (NKJV) "For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'

1. Certain cultures have a strong tradition of filial piety (fidelity to obligations to parents),
2. Jesus taught that we should love him more than parents, children, possessions...
3. At the same time, we are taught not to neglect our parents in needs
 - a. We should show wisdom when providing parents' financial needs and we should balance parents needs with our own family (wife and children-primary obligation before God, being one flesh).

OUR SPOUSE

Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." {[31] Gen. 2:24}

32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, **and the wife must respect her husband**

- The wife must respect her husband and the husband must honor his wife...

1Pet 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with [them] with understanding, **giving honor to the wife**, as to the weaker vessel, and as [being] heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Roma 12:10 (NIV) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Roma 12:10 (NKJV) [Be] kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

- 5387 philostorgos {fil-os'-tor-gos}
from 5384 and storge (cherishing one's kindred, especially parents or children)
- 5360 philadelphia {fil-ad-el-fee'-ah}
 - 1) love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love; 2) in the NT the love OF Christians cherishing each other

The importance of honor in marriage

1 Pet 3:7 **amp**, In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered *and* cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]

IN CONTRAST

Prov 5:3, For the lips of a loose woman drip honey as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil; [Ezek. 20:30; Col. 2:8-10; II Pet. 2:14-17.]

Prov 5:4, But all that you really get from being with her is bitter poison and pain...

Prov 5:8, Let your way in life be far from her, and come not near the door of her house [avoid the very scenes of temptation], [Prov. 4:15; Rom. 16:17; I Thess. 5:19-22.]

Prov 5:9, **Lest you give your honor to others** and your years to those without mercy,

CEV - 9 You will lose your self-respect and end up in debt to some cruel person for the rest of your life.

10 Strangers will get your money and everything else you have worked for. 11 When it's all over, your body will waste away, as you groan 12 and shout, "I hated advice and correction!"

NLT - 9If you do, you will lose your honor and hand over to merciless people everything you have achieved in life. 10Strangers will obtain your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor.

11Afterward you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body,

MESSAGE...

DOBSON-

"Nothing builds her esteem more than for you to let her (and others) know that you respect and value her as a person. And nothing destroys her self-confidence more quickly than your ridicule or rejection"

- What can be worse than verbal abuse, physical abuse or adultery...

Eph 5:33, However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects *and* reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. [I Pet. 3:2.]

- On his 50th wedding anniversary, **Henry Ford's** advice for marital bliss and long life was: "Just the same as in the automobile business, stick to one model."

ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS

A large majority of men--married and single--say they wouldn't have an affair, even if they were certain their loved one would never find out, says a Gallup poll commissioned by *Self* magazine, in the June (1992) issue. Of 500 men surveyed, 67% of married men and 60% of unmarried men say an affair is absolutely out of the question. Only 5% of married men and 11% of unmarried men would do it (the rest said maybe). Also, 95% of married men say they wouldn't drop their partner for a trophy wife if they became extremely successful or wealthy. *U.S.A. Today*, May 26, 1992, p. D1.

(Andrew) Greeley on the results of the Love and Marriage Gallup study of 657 married couples, which was conducted in 1989-90 for *Psychology Today*. According to Greeley, marriage is far healthier than we have been led to believe:

- Ninety percent of American couples have had only one sexual partner since they were married (and it is not because they are afraid of AIDS).
- Four-fifths say they would marry the same person if they had to do it over again.
- Over 80 percent of all married men, regardless of age, say their wife is good-looking.
- Three-quarters of married people say their spouse is their best friend.
- Three-quarters of those questioned say divorce is "not at all likely."
- Over 60 percent of American couples describe their marriage as "very happy."

The best predictor of whether or not a couple is happy together is joint prayer. The study found, for example, that couples from two-income families that pray together are less likely to consider divorce than single-income families that do not pray together.

- People who live together before marriage are less likely than those who did not cohabit to say their marriage is very happy. Those who have had premarital sex are also less prone to say their marriage is very happy. *Christianity Today*, March 9, 1992, pp. 42-43.

A couple married for 15 years began having more than usual disagreements. They wanted to make their marriage work and agreed on an idea the wife had. For one month they planned to drop a slip in a "Fault" box. The boxes would provide a place to let the other know about daily irritations. The wife was diligent in her efforts and approach: "leaving the jelly top off the jar," "wet towels on the shower floor," "dirty socks not in hamper," and on and on until the end of the month. After dinner, at the end of the month, they exchanged boxes. The husband reflected on what he had done wrong. Then the wife opened her box and began reading. They were all the same, the message on each slip was, "I love you!" [Source Unknown](#).

If you want to be happy, healthy, successful, and live longer, give your spouse a kiss before you go to work each day. That's the conclusion of a study conducted by a group of German physicians and psychologists, in cooperation with insurance companies. According to Dr. Arthur Sazbo, the study found that those who kiss their spouse each morning miss less work because of illness than those who do not. They also have fewer auto accidents on the way to work. They earn 20 to 30 percent more monthly and they live about five years more than those who don't even give each other a peck on the cheek. The reason for this, says Dr. Sazbo, is that the kissers begin the day with a positive attitude. A kiss signifies a sort of seal of approval in the eyes of Dr. Sazbo and his colleagues and, they believe, those who don't experience it, for whatever reason, go out the door feeling not quite right about themselves. Whether you give this study any credence or not, an au revoir kiss every morning can do you no harm. Maybe you can expand the study and write a book, *Pucker Up to Grow Rich, Feel Good, and Live Longer*. It could be a best-seller. *Bits & Pieces*, July 25, 1992, pp. 4-5.

Sociologist and historian Carle Zimmerman, in his 1947 book *Family and Civilization*, recorded his keen observations as he compared the disintegration of various cultures with the parallel decline of family life in those cultures. Eight specific patterns of domestic behavior typified the downward spiral of each culture Zimmerman studied.

- *Marriage loses its sacredness...is frequently broken by divorce.
- *Traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony is lost.
- *Feminist movements abound.
- *Increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general.
- *Acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion.
- *Refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities.
- *Growing desire for and acceptance of adultery.
- *Increasing interest in and spread of sexual perversions and sex-related crimes.

Swindoll, *The Quest For Character*, Multnomah, p. 90.