
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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“Honor In a World Prone to Shame”

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

SERMON RECAP

This week's service was filled with worship led by the Lee University Singers, and the message called us to recover a deeply biblical and urgently needed practice: honor. Pastor Gary reminded us that people all around us are longing to be seen, valued, and treated with dignity. Honor is more than politeness or encouragement. Biblically, honor carries the idea of "weight," value, esteem, and substance. To honor someone is to recognize the image of God in them and to speak truthfully about what is noble, faithful, sacrificial, or worthy in their life.

The pastoral heart of the message was especially practical: as followers of Jesus, we should become people who look for what is honorable in others and name it. Jesus did this throughout His ministry. When He healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, forgave sinners, restored women, touched lepers, and brought the isolated back into community, He was not merely solving physical problems. He was restoring dignity, belonging, and honor. Pastor urged us to listen more carefully to people's stories, lay down distraction, look them in the eye, and ask the Lord to help us see what others often miss.

At the center of the message was the gospel itself. We do not become honorable enough to earn heaven by adding up good deeds, generosity, kindness, or religious effort. Our truest honor comes from Christ, who valued us enough to die for us while we were still sinners. Jesus has bestowed honor on us through His death, burial, and resurrection, so that we can now go into our homes, workplaces, schools, church, and community as people who honor God and honor others in His name.

 STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- Honor is weighty. In Scripture, honor carries the sense of substance, value, dignity, and esteem. It is not shallow flattery but a truthful recognition of worth.
- Jesus restored honor to the ashamed and isolated. His healings and acts of mercy often returned people to family, worship, community, and dignity.
- Humility comes before honor. We do not grasp for honor or demand it. We receive honor from Christ and then freely give honor to others.
- Honor is a daily ministry. We honor parents, spouses, children, veterans, leaders, the elderly, the lonely, the broken, and even those whose stories are complicated by looking for what is noble and naming it.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Text:

- Romans 12:10 – “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Scriptures Mentioned or Alluded to by Pastor Gary

- Proverbs 15:33 – “The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”
- 1 Timothy 1:17 – “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.”
- 1 Samuel 2:30 – “Those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”
- Romans 12:10 – “Outdo one another in showing honor.”
- Deuteronomy 5:16 – “Honor your father and your mother...”
- Ephesians 6:2-3 – “Honor your father and mother... that it may go well with you...”

- Hebrews 13:18 – “We are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.”
- Proverbs 3:9 – “Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.”
- 1 Timothy 5:17 – “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor...”
- John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
- Romans 5:8 – “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Luke 7:11-17 – Jesus raises the widow’s son at Nain.
- Mark 5:25-34 – Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood.
- John 8:1-11 – Jesus restores the woman caught in adultery.
- John 9:1-3 – The disciples ask who sinned, the blind man or his parents.
- Mark 10:35-45 – James and John ask to sit at Jesus’ right and left.
- Luke 23:39-43 – Jesus promises paradise to the criminal on the cross.
- Malachi 3:10 – Bring the full tithe into the storehouse.
- Philippians 4:19 – God supplies every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 3:10 – Knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection, and sharing His sufferings.
- John 7:37-39 – Rivers of living water.
- Deuteronomy 28:13 – The Lord makes His people “the head and not the tail.”
- Ecclesiastes 11:1 – “Cast your bread upon the waters...”
- 2 Timothy 1:6 – Fan into flame the gift of God through the laying on of hands.
- Psalm 23:6 – Goodness and mercy following the people of God.
- Zechariah 2:5 – The Lord as a wall of fire around His people.
- Isaiah 52:12 / Isaiah 58:8 – The Lord as rear guard.

Other Relevant Verses

- Genesis 1:26-27 – General thematic tie. This passage grounds human dignity in the image of God. Every person is worthy of honor because every person is created by God.
- 1 Peter 2:17 – General thematic tie. “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” This verse shows how broad the Christian call to honor really is.
- Philippians 2:3-8 – General thematic tie. This passage expounds the humility of Christ, who did not grasp for status but humbled Himself. It connects directly to the sermon’s theme that humility comes before honor.



DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1 – Outdo One Another in Honor

Reflection Question

Where has God placed someone in your life who needs to be seen, valued, and honored rather than merely corrected, tolerated, or overlooked?

Reading

- Romans 12:10
- Proverbs 15:33

Thought

Romans 12 gives a picture of life inside the renewed community of Christ. Paul is not describing a church that merely believes correct doctrine; he is describing a people whose relationships have been reshaped by mercy. After explaining the grace of God in Romans 1-11, Paul turns to the practical life of worship: bodies presented to God, minds renewed, love made genuine, evil rejected, good pursued, and honor freely given.

The command to “outdo one another in showing honor” would have been striking in the honor-shame world of the first century. In that culture, honor was often something to compete for, protect, and defend. Families, public reputation, social rank, and religious standing all mattered deeply. But Paul flips the competition. Christians are not to compete for their own honor; they are to compete in giving honor away.

Pastor Gary reminded us that honor is “weighty.” It gives substance and value. When we honor someone, we are not flattering them. Flattery exaggerates for selfish gain. Honor tells the truth about God’s grace, God’s image, and God’s work in a person’s life. Proverbs 15:33 adds the necessary foundation: humility comes before honor. Proud people demand honor. Humble people give it.

Challenge

Choose one person today and intentionally honor them. Be specific. Name something noble, faithful, sacrificial, or Christlike that you see in them.

Day 2 — Honoring God First

Reflection Question

Does the way I use my words, money, time, influence, and body communicate that God is weighty and worthy in my life?

Reading

- 1 Timothy 1:17
- Proverbs 3:9

Thought

Paul's doxology in 1 Timothy 1:17 erupts after he remembers the mercy of God. Paul had been a blasphemer, persecutor, and opponent of Christ, yet Jesus showed him mercy. His response is worship: "To the King of the ages... be honor and glory forever and ever." Honor begins with God because God alone is supremely weighty, supremely worthy, and supremely glorious.

In the Old Testament, honoring God was never merely emotional. Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce." Firstfruits meant the first and best of the harvest. It was an act of trust. God's people gave to Him first, not last, because they believed He was the source of every blessing.

Pastor Gary connected honor to practical obedience. We honor God not simply by singing worship songs but by ordering our lives around His worth. Our finances, our calendars, our conversations, our family rhythms, and our public conduct all reveal what we consider weighty. If God is truly honored, then His glory shapes our priorities.

Challenge

Review one area of your life—finances, schedule, speech, relationships, or entertainment. Ask: "Does this honor the Lord?" Make one concrete adjustment this week.

Day 3 — Jesus Restores Honor to the Ashamed

Reflection Question

Who in my life feels ashamed, isolated, forgotten, or disqualified? How might Jesus want to restore dignity through me?

Reading

- Mark 5:25-34
- Luke 7:11-17

Thought

The woman with the issue of blood had suffered for twelve years. In her world, her condition was not only medical; it was social and religious. According to the purity laws, continual bleeding made her ceremonially unclean. That meant isolation from normal touch, worship, family life, and community belonging. When Jesus healed her, He did more than stop her bleeding. He publicly called her “daughter” and sent her away in peace. He restored her honor.

In Luke 7, the widow at Nain was walking behind the body of her only son. In the ancient world, a widow without a son faced not only grief but vulnerability, economic danger, and social instability. When Jesus raised her son, He restored life to the young man, but He also restored provision, protection, and honor to the mother.

Pastor helped us see that Jesus’ miracles often carried a deeper social and spiritual restoration. Jesus returned people to community. He lifted shame. He gave people back their names, their place, their dignity, and their future. If we are going to follow Jesus, we must learn to see people not as problems to solve but as image-bearers to honor.

Challenge

Reach out to someone who may feel forgotten or isolated. Listen without rushing. Ask a thoughtful question. Offer honor through presence, not performance.

Day 4 – Honor in the Family

Reflection Question

What would it look like for me to honor my parents, children, spouse, in-laws, or extended family in a truthful and Christlike way?

Reading

- Deuteronomy 5:16
- Ephesians 6:2-3

Thought

The command to honor father and mother is one of the Ten Commandments and is repeated in the New Testament. In ancient Israel, this command helped preserve covenant faithfulness across generations. Honoring parents was not sentimentalism. It included respect, care, gratitude, listening, and preserving the dignity of family relationships.

Ephesians 6 repeats the command inside the life of the church. Paul reminds believers that this is “the first commandment with a promise.” Honor in the family matters because family is one of the first places we learn how to receive and give dignity. It is also one of the places where honor can be most difficult, especially when relationships have included disappointment, sin, neglect, or pain.

Pastor wisely acknowledged that some parents have failed deeply. Honoring them does not mean pretending wrong was right. It does not mean ignoring abuse, enabling sin, or erasing boundaries. But the sermon challenged us to look, where possible, for something true and weighty that can be honored. Christian honor is not denial. It is Spirit-led truthfulness shaped by humility.

Challenge

If appropriate and safe, speak or write one sentence of genuine honor to a family member. If direct contact is unwise, bring the matter before the Lord and ask Him to form honor in your heart without compromising truth.

Day 5 — Our Honor Comes from Christ

Reflection Question

Am I trying to earn honor before God, or am I living from the honor Christ has already given me through the gospel?

Reading

- Romans 5:8
- Luke 23:39-43

Thought

Romans 5:8 is one of the clearest statements of gospel honor: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus did not wait until we became respectable, impressive, religiously polished, or morally successful. He moved toward us in our sin and shame. At the cross, God declared our value not by ignoring our sin but by paying for it through His Son.

The criminal on the cross had no time to build an honorable résumé. He could not join a ministry, give years of service, repair all the damage he had done, or balance the moral books. Yet Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” His entrance into eternal life was not based on accumulated honor but on the mercy and authority of Christ.

Pastor Gary closed the sermon with this gospel clarity: all the honorable things we do will never be enough to earn heaven. Our honor before God is bestowed, not achieved. Because Jesus died and rose again, those who trust Him are forgiven, received, dignified, and made new. From that place we can live honorably, not to earn salvation, but because we have received grace.

Challenge

Spend time today thanking Jesus for the honor He has given you through the cross. Then ask Him to help you live honorably from grace, not for approval.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone warmly. This week's discussion centers on the biblical call to honor God and honor others. Begin by inviting the group to pray for open hearts, humility, and eyes to see the dignity God has placed in the people around us.

Prayer prompt: Ask the Lord to help the group become people who recognize, receive, and give honor in ways that reflect Jesus.

Thematic Recap

This week's sermon challenged us to recover the biblical practice of honor. Honor means recognizing the weight, value, dignity, and God-given worth of another person. Jesus restored honor and now He sends us to do the same in our families, church, workplaces, schools, and community.

Core Message Highlights

- Honor is not flattery; it is truthful recognition of value.
- Humility comes before honor.
- Jesus restores dignity to those living under shame.
- We honor God first, then honor others as an overflow of worship.
- People around us are often longing to be seen, heard, and valued.
- Our ultimate honor comes from Christ, not our own achievements.

Icebreaker

Question:

Think of a time when someone sincerely honored or encouraged you. What did they say or do, and why did it stay with you?

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: Romans 12:9-10

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Discussion Prompts

1. What is the connection between “genuine love” and “showing honor”?
2. Why do you think Paul says to “outdo one another” in honor?
3. How is biblical honor different from flattery or people-pleasing?
4. What would change in our church, homes, or workplaces if we practiced this verse consistently?

Passage 2: Mark 5:25-34

Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood and publicly calls her “daughter.”

Discussion Prompts

1. What kinds of shame or isolation might this woman have experienced before meeting Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus made the healing public by asking, “Who touched me?”
3. What is significant about Jesus calling her “daughter”?
4. Who are the people today who may need not only help, but restored dignity and belonging?

Passage 3: Philippians 2:3-8

Christ humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant and becoming obedient to death on a cross.

Discussion Prompts

1. How does humility prepare us to honor others?
2. What does Jesus teach us about using position, power, and status?

3. Why is it difficult to honor others when we are focused on protecting our own reputation?
4. How does the cross redefine what true honor looks like?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

How do Romans 12, Mark 5, and Philippians 2 together show us that honor is not about status-seeking, but about humble, Christlike love that restores dignity to others?

Application: Growing in Honor and Prayer

This sermon calls us not only to speak honor but also to pray with honor. Prayer reshapes how we see people. As we bring others before God, we begin to see them less through irritation, suspicion, or disappointment and more through mercy, truth, and grace.

Practical Steps

- Pray before conversations. Ask the Lord, “Help me see what You see in this person.”
- Practice attentive presence. Put away distractions, make eye contact, and listen well.
- Name what is honorable. Be specific: sacrifice, faithfulness, courage, perseverance, repentance, generosity, service.
- Honor in your home first. Look for opportunities to honor your spouse, children, parents, roommates, or extended family.
- Pray for difficult people. Ask God to show you what can be honored without excusing sin or abandoning wisdom.
- Restore dignity through service. Visit, call, write, encourage, and include those who may feel forgotten.
- Let prayer expose dishonor. Ask the Spirit to reveal sarcasm, contempt, bitterness, or dismissiveness in your heart.

Closing

Take time to share prayer needs. Encourage the group to include both personal needs and relational needs—especially places where honor is difficult, needed, or overdue.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Invite the group to pray around these themes:

- Thank God for the honor we receive through Christ.
- Ask for humility to honor others sincerely.
- Pray for healing in families and strained relationships.
- Ask God to make CBC a church known for dignity, hospitality, and honor.
- Pray for eyes to see the lonely, ashamed, elderly, young, weary, and overlooked.

Leader Notes

- Create safety. Discussions about honor, parents, family, shame, and past wounds can be sensitive. Remind the group that honoring someone does not mean denying harm or removing wise boundaries.
- Avoid forced vulnerability. Let people share at their own pace. Do not pressure anyone to discuss painful family dynamics.
- Clarify the difference between honor and approval. Biblical honor recognizes God-given dignity and whatever is truly noble; it does not excuse sin.
- Keep the gospel central. Our honor before God comes from Christ, not performance. Application should flow from grace.
- Encourage specificity. Help the group move from vague compliments to meaningful honor: "I see courage in how you..." or "Your faithfulness in this season has mattered."
- Model it. As a leader, honor group members sincerely during the discussion when appropriate.
- End with hope. Some relationships may not be healed quickly, but the Spirit can form humility, truth, and Christlike honor in us over time.