

HONOURING GOD

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”
—REVELATION 3:20*

There are very few people who become distant from God overnight. We can become so wrapped up in the busyness of everyday pressures and activities that God is gradually left on the sidelines. The more we live our lives without bringing God in, the more we rely on our own resources. Inevitably, we end up dishonouring God by violating His laws and purpose for us. It may start small, but it escalates.

There’s a popular notion that God’s dealings with us are unconditional, but that isn’t accurate of Scripture. We cannot live as we please and have God respond to us as though we are living His way. One of the necessary ingredients in maintaining spiritual reality is getting a diagnosis of the things that are wrong in our relationship with God, and be willing to have them rectified.

What is essential is that we honour God, and there are three basic ways in which we do this. We first honour God by acknowledging His supremacy in all things; that above everything else is our recognition of God, His will, His purpose, His sovereignty. Secondly, we honour God by submitting our agenda to His agenda. We cannot live on a level of “what’s in it for me?” and expect to reap the benefits of God. As Christians, we are in a covenant relationship with God whereby His agenda becomes our priority.

Thirdly, we honour God by meeting His requirements. Jesus said in John 15:10, “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love...” This is conditional. It’s in obeying Jesus that we remain in His love. If we’re living in disobedience, actively taken up with our own desires, we cease to be the recipients of God’s love in terms of the benefits that brings. But in our obedience to Him and love for Him, we have in Him all the divine blessings and resources of heaven.

Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). To paraphrase, “What you do not know is that I, Jesus, am outside the door, and you’re doing your own thing. If you open the door and let Me in, you’ll find your way back.” As it was in the first generation churches, one of the great needs of Christians today is to find their way back to Jesus. If we open that door and ask Him in, we not only receive the fresh start we need, but in earnestly renewing our relationship with Him, we honour God.

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I ask your forgiveness for every time I have strayed from You. I want to honour You in every aspect of my life and pray for a deeper work of your Spirit in me. Thank You, Lord.

TO REFLECT UPON: Am I honouring God by the way I live?