

A circular frame containing a photograph of sheep in a mountainous landscape. The sheep are in the foreground, looking towards the camera. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a valley. The entire image is set against a purple background with a wavy, textured pattern.

BELONG



RIG Global is under the umbrella of RIG USA:

RIG stands for Restoring Issachar's Generation, a mission based on 1 Chronicles 12:32: "The sons of Issachar who had an understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do." The ministry's vision is to restore the apostolic and prophetic ministry back into the Body of Christ and to equip this generation to be in a position and condition for use by God.

Intended Use :

This educational teaching manual is intended solely for instructional purposes. The contents of this manual, including text, graphics, images, and other material, are provided as a resource to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The information contained herein is designed to support instructors in their facilitating practice and to provide students with supplementary material for their studies.

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Instructor Notes

Belong Class | The Great Commandment

RIG Global is a local church with a global impact. Our mission is simple: Believe, Belong, Build: To turn 7,000 believers into 7,000 belonger's and ultimately into 7,000 builders.

Recommended Membership Books:

- Eat Sleep Prophecy Repeat
- The Cosmopolitan Christian

Key Learning Point for Core Understanding:

1. Belongers will love the Lord with all their heart might, soul and strength
2. Belongers will love their neighbor as themselves
3. Belongers will operate in the culture of Biblical honor

The objective of the Belonger course is for all participants to:

1. Love the Lord - Belongers must have a private and corporate intimate life of worship and praise to God daily in committing their soul and strength to the Lord. They must be taught daily devotion and corporate worship. They must be taught that obedience to God is tantamount to loving Him (John 14:15). We cannot say we love God and violate His commandments or treat them as suggestions. His commandments cannot be burdensome (1 John 5:3), the outcome is that the believers body must become a mobile home for the Lord. (John 14:23.) They must know the 10 commandments off by heart to graduate this class and be able to recite the top two. The greatest commandments do not annul the lesser. (Exodus 20)

Fruit of understanding: The believers body becomes a mobile home for the Lord. (John 14:23.) They know the 10 commandments by heart, and are able to recite the top two (required for completion of course.) The following acts are present as well:

- No gods No Idols
- No Blasphemy
- Give God Sunday
- Sow seeds to their Father and mother
- Don't murder
- Don't commit adultery
- Don't steal

- Don't bear false witness or lie
 - Don't covet your neighbor's house, spouse or belongings
2. Love your neighbor - Belongers must understand the power of the neighbor. Our motto here is this: 'You will never go to nations if you haven't gone to neighbors. Or rather, "You don't qualify for the next door if you haven't even gone next door!" Belongers must understand these two statements. If we don't love our neighbors, we go from believers to deceivers (1 John 4:20). We are called to know the worst but think the best. A healthy church that loves its neighbors is one in which Belongers conflict and confront to connect back with each other more meaningfully. Belongers will be taught not to talk to others about others without going to the person first, along with what to do when someone tells you about someone else when they have not confronted the person in question. Iron sharpens iron, but it also cuts iron by accident sometimes. RIG members need to know that offenses will come. In this class, we will teach a Nations through neighbors process that will encourage house fellowship teaching without cosigning to them starting there and then.

Fruit of understanding: The believer has zero tolerance for gossip, slander, spreading rumors, or a rebuke of elders not being brought by a witness of two or three. The believer will also understand community is important and know the several online and in person communities they can plug into.

1. RIG Men
2. RIG Women
3. RIG Gen
4. RIG Singles
5. RIG Marriage
6. RIG Business
7. RIG Single Parents

Note: Vibrant and accountable communities are important with a Pastoral Leader in each one. These are not program orientated but people and process orientated. These are connection times that must tick three boxes:

1. Fellowship
2. Community
3. Transition

Whilst you never graduate from being a man or a woman, singles for instance should be able to transition out of being single and into married life. The Pastors of these groups should represent what these groups should become. Everything reproduces after its kind so we want pastors in each of these systems that represents the outcome of those that attend. Every member must belong in one or more of these groups.

3. Biblical Honor - Our motto for this class will be honor **shows** up, honor sows up, honor **speaks** up! RIG Global intends to be a scandal free zone and we cannot do that without the fear of the Lord being established among us. Belongers will be taught Biblical honor. The forsaking not of gathering together, how to behave when we gather. How to speak to one another, how to honor those who labor among you and to know them that labor among you. Biblical honor in speech, in conduct, words and language that is not Biblically honorable. The casual church becomes a casualty! How to avoid familiarity whilst being family. How to be close enough to relate but far enough to motivate. Learning to speak up appropriately when you see signs of pastoral abuse. Recognize the signs of pastoral abuse and how to blow the whistle without blowing up the church. Belongers will learn our chain of command and how we operate and who we are accountable to.

Fruit of understanding: Belongers knowing how to speak to chain of command without intimidation, understanding how to contribute to the church, to tithe and offer, to be involved in the activities of the church and to show up each Sunday as a duty and not as an emotion.

Lesson 1: Love the Lord

Welcome Issachar to the Belongers portion of your membership class. You are now in the second segment of this three part membership process. We've taught you the foundations needed to believe, now we'll be giving you the tools to see the fruit of belonging within the body of Christ, and here at your new RIG Global home. There is no active membership without belonging! In this class, we want to educate you on three Biblical principles essential to being a Belonger.

Opening Discussion Question: What is the most important commandment?

Answer:

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"

Mark 12:29-30 (see Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

But what is love?

The Greek word for love being used in the passage above is **Agapaó**. It holds the following meanings:

1. To take pleasure in
2. Choosing God's choices
3. A discriminatory love that involves choice and selection.
4. Actively do what the Lord prefers
5. Embracing God's will

Fundamental Understanding: In the English language, the singular word 'love' is used to describe a very complex action, emotion, and feeling. In the Greek, we are able to examine the complexity of the word, and its context in scripture.

Scripture Reading: Let us take a look at this scripture: John 21: 15-17

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Question: Do you believe Jesus and Simon Peter are referring to the same type of 'love' here?

Answer: In this passage Simon Peter was referring to **Phileó** (brotherly) love during his interaction with Jesus.

Nugget of Wisdom #1: **Phileó** is the love that will live for someone, **Agapé** is the love that died for them.

- Simon was the one that told Jesus that there was no way possible that he could fall away from pursuing Jesus. In his heart he believed himself to be genuine and unwavering in his devotion to the Lord Jesus and yet he fell away.

Jesus knew that although Peter loved Jesus, his love for Him was a lesser version of love. It was based on **Phileó** and not on **Agapé**.

- The love that took Jesus to the cross could not be reciprocated or reimbursed by man or merit, it was a love based entirely in choice and not in feeling.

When Jesus questioned Simon, it seemed harsh but although Peter could live for Jesus, He could not die for Jesus because the Holy Spirit who is the only one capable of putting this kind of love in an individual had not yet been given to them.

Supporting Scripture:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Matthew 26:33-34

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," Galatians 5:22

Nugget of wisdom #2: This love (**agapé**) is supernatural, it cannot derive from mere human strength.

Scripture Reading: Let us read John 21 again using the Greek where necessary

*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **agapé** Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **phileó** You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **agapé** Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **phileó** You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **phileó** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you **phileó** Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I **phileó** You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep." John 21:15-17*

- Jesus is not questioning Simon's love, He is questioning Simon's LOVE. He is stating that Simon's love was not enough for the journey he was about to take. Phileó means friendship or to kiss, or to regard with affection.

- Remember, Jesus was just betrayed by someone who loved (phileó) him deeply. In fact of that one whose name was Judas Iscariot he even betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Supporting Scripture:

"but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
Luke 22:48

The Greek word here is **philéma** from the word **phileó**. It was friendship love that betrayed Jesus. When you enter a ministry or align with a church, it is dangerous to believe that friendship comes first. In fact friendship is the door to betrayal.

Key Understanding: A shepherd's job is not to be your friend first but your father first.

It is very difficult to be friend and father to your disciples simultaneously. The conflict is, if you enter friendship too quickly then when the rod of discipline comes upon you, you treat it as pastoral abuse because you have not understood the love with which Christ wants you to be joined to your shepherd.

The reason Jesus asked for whether Peter loved (**agapé**) Him, was because Peter's **phileó** love fell short at dying for a Lord He was once so willing to live for. If you notice that within the same chapter Peter went from Shepherd in training to reverting back to fishing. He went back to his old life as a fisherman and left the sheep he was entrusted to shepherd because his **phileó** love was not sufficient fuel to continue the work of the one He loved whilst He was yet alive.

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
John 21:3

He led astray his brothers to go back to the very thing they left to follow Jesus because **phileó** love only lasts as long as the one whom you love is in your presence. It is a fickle love and yet the strongest human bond outside of **agapé** love. It is strong enough to live for someone but not strong enough to die for someone.

Question: Why did Jesus say to Peter feed My sheep?

Answer: Because a good Shepherd loves the sheep enough to die for them. A bad shepherd will live for them but will never die for the sheep.

To the Good Shepherd ministry is a calling, to the bad Shepherd ministry is a career. The Good Shepherd will die for the sheep, the bad Shepherd can only live for the sheep.

The Good Shepherd abides by the sheep, the bad Shepherd abandons the sheep.

The Good Shepherd cares for the sheep, the bad Shepherd cares for the salary.

The Good Shepherd says how much will it cost me, the bad shepherd says how much will it make me.

Supporting Scripture:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me
John 10:11-15

Key Understanding: The love that Jesus was requiring was a love totally alien to Simon at that time because the Holy Spirit had not yet been able to shed that love in His heart. It was a love that will see the wolf coming and die for the sheep, a love that would eventually make him a good shepherd as His Good Shepherd Jesus. It would seem when Jesus died, Simon abandoned the sheep of which he was assigned to as a rock.

Agape is a perfect love, the sign of it in full maturity in the church is that there will be no more fear.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1 John 4:18

When your love is full by the Holy Spirit there is no more fear. Love eradicates all fear. The closest thing to **agapé** love is the love a father has for his child. A father will see their child about to get run over by a huge truck and will instinctively jump in front of the vehicle to push his child out of the way, knowing full well that in other circumstances he would be afraid to do so. What makes a father do what a stranger cannot do? It is the bond of family love that drives out all fear of death.

The angels can never experience this love because they are not the Father's children. You and I can never experience this love for one another until the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and makes us siblings.

The love we have for God is a spiritual love that binds us as spiritual brothers and sisters worth dying for.

Supporting Scripture:

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, Romans 15:30

who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. Colossians 1:8

Nugget of wisdom #3: Although God commanded this love by law, it could only truly come by the Spirit.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4

When we walk in the law of the Spirit which is love then we are free from the law of sin and death. We fulfil in the Holy Spirit what the law was incapable of putting into us. The fruit gets to be produced but the Holy Spirit and not by human effort.

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." Ezekiel 36:25-27

The Holy Spirit in us will cause us to keep God's commandments.

That confirmation of Sonship by the Holy Spirit causes us to obey God. An obedience that is no longer difficult considering that God is also our Father.

Foundational Understanding: The sign of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is obedience to the Father.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.
John 14:15

There are 10 Biblical commandments (Exodus 20) that the Holy Spirit will help us keep:

1. No gods before me.
2. No Idols of anything above, beneath or in the water, don't bow or worship them.
3. No Blasphemy of the Lord's name.
4. Give God Sunday, keep it Holy, don't go to work go to church.
5. Sow seeds to your Father and mother so you can live long and inherit the land.
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't bear false witness or lie
10. Don't covet your neighbor's house, spouse, servants, belongings, oxen, donkey, vehicle or anything that belongs to your neighbor

Lesson 2: Love your Neighbor

As a believer, you must love your neighbor. Believers must understand the power of 'the neighbor.'

Repeat after me three times: 'I will never go to nations if I haven't gone to neighbor's.'

Repeat three times: 'I don't qualify for the next door, if I haven't even gone next door!'

Supporting Scripture:

"Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28-30

On Luke's account of the same incident, they asked Him

"But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among [i]thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, [j]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:30-37

1. Your neighbor is a stranger in danger

Your neighbor is a stranger in danger physically, mentally or spiritually. The greatest threat to your neighbor is not their present trial but their eternal one. Don't forsake the

dead for the living. Remember the doctor is not sent to those that are well but to those that are sick.

Supporting Scripture:

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among [i]thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Luke 10:30

2. Your neighbor is who you ignore on your way to serve God in church.

You can't be in such a hurry to serve God that you end up failing to serve God.

Don't pass by an opportunity to exercise your office on the way to exercising your office. You cannot become so well ordained that on your way to church you are not meeting the needs of your community. Your community needs Jesus just as much as your church needs worship practice. Soul winning has got to become our habit no matter how ordained we are, we never graduate from evangelism.

Supporting Scripture:

31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.
Luke 10:31-32

3. Your neighbor is not your flavor

Your neighbor is who you are fortuitous enough to meet across the journey. There will be lots of opportunity for this church to become a click where all the White people bundle together and all the Black people bundle together and all the Hispanic people bundle together because after all Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.

The Jews and Samaritans had a deep racial history that stemmed thousands of years to the Patriarch Jacob. The Samaritans were a mixed race group that were despised by their full blooded Jewish counterparts. The hatred was so strong that Jews never journeyed through Samaria to reach Jerusalem. They would rather take a long route to reach Jerusalem than the short cut. This historic racial divide became the backdrop for the answer to the question from a staunch Jew "who then is my neighbor?" Your neighbor is the one you will cross racial boundaries to meet their needs.

Supporting Scripture:

33But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Luke 10:33-34

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)
John 4:9

4. **Your neighbor has a fence.**

Fences avoid offences! It amazes me to this day when I look at my yard that there will always be one side of my fence that I will never need to build. It will be built entirely by my neighbor. His fence determines where my property ends and his begins. In short where there is a fence there is no offence.

Supporting Scripture:

“33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.” Luke 10:33-34

Have you ever helped somebody only for it to come back to bite you later? The common saying:

“no good deed goes unpunished” must be springing to mind.

What if I told you that your offence with the last person you helped was because you didn’t have a fence in the first place? There was no way to determine where your responsibility ends and theirs begins.

Jesus could not ignore need. Neither did He live a religiously guilty life that tried to fix everyone’s need. This Samaritan bandaged the stranger, put the stranger in his vehicle and took the stranger to a place more qualified than him to take care of his needs.

Repeat after me: Be merciful, don’t be a martyr.

The Samaritan never brought the half dead man into his home and had him sleep in his 5 year old daughter's bedroom. It sounds funny but stories like this are all too common.

Well-meaning Samaritans bring not well meaning strangers into their home only to get stolen from, taken advantage of and be left feeling guilty about letting them go. This is not mercy, this is its ugly twin sister martyrdom.

Who knows what trouble the man was in and what trouble could come upon the Samaritans family by letting this bruised man stay in his home. Recognize facilities in the earth better equipped at taking care of unique needs and let your finance do the care taking.

5. Your neighbor is the one who can never pay you back.

“35 On the next day, [j]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’” Luke 10:35

If you are still chasing someone up for something you gave them during a time when they had need then they are not your neighbor they are your debtor.

Learn to Give without needing a return. (Luke 6:35-36)

Blessing others is not about reaping where you sow it's about reaping what you sow.

Lesson 3: Biblical Honor

Repeat after me: Honor shows up, honor sows up, honor speaks up!

RIG Global intends to mitigate scandal as much as possible and we cannot do that without the fear of the Lord being first established among us.

The first lesson in wisdom:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

The contemporary English version says this:

Respect and obey the LORD! This is the beginning of wisdom. To have understanding, you must know the Holy God.

Key Understanding: It is respect and obedience that God requires from the church as its most vital lesson. It is not enough to obey the Lord, it is how you obey Him and the quality with which you obey Him that matters.

** To fear the Lord is to hate what the Lord hates without hating WHO the Lord loves.

“To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.” Proverbs 8:13

Supporting Scripture:

“16These six things the Lord hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to [h]Him:
17A[i] proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
18A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
19A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.”
Proverbs 6:16-19

“Hate evil, O you who love the LORD! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked” Psalm 97:10

God hates:

1. Pride - being more than or less than who God says you are. Walking in an unteachable spirit.
2. Arrogance - thinking more than or less of yourself than God thinks of you.
3. Evil behavior - behaving in a way that Satan would behave.
4. Perverse speech - swearing, crude jokes, twisted speech
5. A proud look - looking down on others with superiority.
6. A lying tongue - false prophecy, lies, white lies, deception, quoting statements of truth not truthfully stated.
7. Hands that shed innocent blood - murder, abortion, hatred.
8. A devising wicked schemes - scandalous people.
9. Feet that are swift to run to evil
10. A false witness who isn't telling the truth.
11. A church splitter.
12. Divorce - Malachi 2:16

5 codes of Biblical Honor:

1. **Show up:** You cannot say you fear God but you don't go to church.

"Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 31:12

You cannot honor the headship of Christ and dishonor the body of Christ.

"24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

When we gather to talk to each other about the Lord, we show we fear the Lord.

"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name." Malachi 3:16

2. **Sow up:** When you sow to God your best then you are showing Him that you fear Him.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Genesis 22:12

The fear of the Lord, the sign of it will be giving generously and praying to God always.

“1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian [a]Regiment, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave [b]alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 About [c]the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” Acts 10:1-3

God is honored in the giving of your substance and the first fruits of all your increase.

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase. So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Proverbs 3:9

You greatly dishonor the Lord when you give Him the rest and not the best.

“A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ “You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 1:6-8

God would rather that we shut our churches down than bring useless offerings before Him.

“Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands.” Malachi 1:10

When God is dishonored it will show in your finances.

“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house” Haggai 1:9

When you honor God in your giving you go from being a consumer Christian to a contributing Christian.

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Key Understanding: God will always give seed to a sower (contributor) and bread to an eater (consumer). The eater is entitled by the bread they are being given into believing in a God who only wants to give them bread. The sower is empowered by the seed they are being given to believe that God wants to give them both.

Eaters never sow but sowers will always eat.

Which are you choosing to become today? If a sower, may the Lord increase your store of seed and enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
In Jesus Name!

Honor the Lord with tithing.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10

A whole tithe is 10% of your income before tax, before expenses, before bills, before vendors are paid off.

It is a dishonor to the Lord to pay everyone else and then God last. When you deduct expenses before you pay your tithe then your tithe is also a deductible expense. It's your increase God wants not your net income.

3. **Speak up:** Speak to people like they are royalty and you will have even the king for a friend.

The way and manner in which you speak matters a great deal to honor. Look at Abigail for instance who won the affection of the king with honorable speech.

Supporting Scripture:

"He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend." Proverbs 22:11

“Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. “Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant.” David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.” 1 Samuel 25:23-32

Did you see how many times she called him lord. Her speech kept David from foolishness. She spoke to the honor code that lived inside of him and brought out the king in him.

You must speak to each other in a manner that provokes the king and queen in one another.

Honor stands when elders and respected persons are present.

*“When I went to the gate of the city and took my seat in the public square, the young men saw me and stepped aside and the old men rose to their feet; the chief men refrained from speaking and covered their mouths with their hands”
Job 29:7-9*

Learn to practice honor, especially to those whose job is the preaching and teaching of the gospel.

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” 1 Timothy 5:17

Do not let honor keep you quiet but neither entertain gossip against leadership unless it is brought by the witness of 2 or 3.

“Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses.” 1 Timothy 5:19

Extend this honor to all men. Let the church be a place where we feel honored and respected in how we speak to one another.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

Honor Speech vs Dishonor Speech

- “hello, hello sir, good morning/afternoon or evening sir, ma’am, miss, or Mr. ” Use this language instead of saying “Hey, hey guys, hey bro, what’s up”
- “Yes, Yes sir, no sir, no ma’am no miss. Use this language instead of saying “yeah, uhuh, mhm, na, k.”
- “You all, you gentlemen, you gentlewomen” Use this language instead of saying “you guys.”

When you are showing honor to people, let the law of kindness instruct your words. It goes a long way to train your children in this manner.

4. Cover up (without covering up): Learn to cover without covering up. Sin should never be covered up, the one in sin should be.

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

Love should cover a multitude of sins, it should not cover up. God’s first instinct when Adam and Eve sinned was to cover them up without covering up what they did wrong.

Remember, you can expose sin and cover the one in sin simultaneously. Sin is evil not the repentant sinner.

“Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them” Genesis 3:21

Notice, the Lord’s first instinct was to cover their nakedness without covering their naughtiness. They were still kicked out of the garden as a consequence of their actions but they were covered.

When leaders sin, we must set boundaries with them. We cannot cover up what they have done but we can cover who they are. The goal in the church must be repentance and restoration.

We shouldn’t see our people or our leaders exposed and want to gossip about them.

Our first instinct should be, how do we cover up without a cover up?

“Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father’s naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.” Genesis 9:22-23

It is dishonorable to cover a leader up who has done something involving victims. It is dishonorable to the truth, the leader and the victims.

The church must learn to navigate the space of honor by recognizing the need to expose the sin without making the sinner the enemy. We must seek to build an environment where love covers a multitude of sins without it covering a multitude of sinners to continue in their sinful practice.

Key Understanding: Honor at the cost of the truth is not Biblical honor.

We want all Belongers to know that RIG has a conduct of protocol for disciplinary. If any member of this church is caught in sin, i.e. infidelity, fornication, abuse, bullying, substance abuse etc. then a fellow believer should bring correction to that saint in love.

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17

You have no right to treat anyone like a pagan that you have not first confronted.

If a member sins, go and point it out in love just between the two of you. Unless the sin involves the harm of children or murder, these are no longer just sins, these are crimes.

The next stage is to take two or three witnesses, not two or three whisperers. These are not fellow gossipers that you have incited. These are other respected brothers who are there to hold you accountable and make sure you are not doing it the wrong way.

If they refuse to listen come to your pastors and report it to them. If they then refuse then the person should be treated like a pagan or a tax collector.

What if my pastor sins?

If it is an elder or a pastor, then the Bible admonishes Christian brothers and sisters not to rebuke such a one.

“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.” 1 Timothy 5:1

It is not the job of members to rebuke an elder and if you must caution him then you must intreat him or her like they are your father or mother.

If your entreaty fails then let two or three witnesses be present with you, remember, witnesses not whisperers (gossipers). People whose reputation for honor and truth are well known in the church.

“Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.” 1 Timothy 5:19

These witnesses are to present themselves to that pastors overseer who must investigate every matter and bring to proper and due remedy depending on the gravity of the error.

What if my overseer sins?

Every leader within RIG has an overseer, even the overseer Apostle Tomi Arayomi. It would be good for the church to learn well the chain of command for reporting behavior that is harmful, inappropriate etc. to due chains of command.



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