

September 15, 2019
LOVE UNLEASHED - Part 4
“Love Honors”

God: “Honor your father and your mother...” (Exodus 20:12 NIV)

honor: “to regard or treat (someone) with admiration and respect” (Webster)

The ultimate glory, honor and respect goes to God, for He created us, and through Jesus Christ has offered us redemption from our sins to live with him forever.

Revelation 4:11 (ESV): “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

1 Timothy 1:17 (NIV): “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

The amazing thing is that God has chosen to bestow honor and glory on us!

Psalms 8:4-5 (ESV): “⁴[O LORD] what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.”

God calls us to love and honor each other.

Romans 12:10 (ESV): “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

1 Peter 2:17 (ESV): “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God...”

The love that God expresses and calls and empowers us to also share is a verb, an action, and not a feeling.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV11): “It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking...”

The Apostle Paul understands that fallen, sinful human nature is self-serving.

Philippians 2:3 (NIV): “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

Philippians 2:3 (Message): “Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.”

One of the best ways we remind ourselves that every person is created in God’s image and has inherent value and worth is to honor them.

GOLDEN RULE

Jesus: “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12 NLT)

Good manners, at their core, are how we have honored and respected others.

Jesus: “³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:35-36 NIV)

Tweet (@bobgoff): “Love does not dishonor others.’ The way we treat the people we disagree with the most, is a report card on our faith.” Bob Goff (author of *Love Does and Everybody Always*)

Ephesians 5:4 (NLT): “Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes – these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.”

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT): “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

We have to be careful that honor and respect extend beyond our words to our attitudes and heart behind them.

Colossians 4:6 (ESV): “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Everyday encounters with folks we meet along the journey of life can be used by God to unleash His love.

Hebrews 13:4 (NLT): “Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. ...”

What are some simple ways I can bring honor to the people I encounter today and beyond?

Next Week: Love Forgives

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