

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

- ROMANS 12:10 NLT

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

HONOR IS A THREE-WAY STREET:

- ***We honor those we FOLLOW.***
- ***We honor those we LEAD.***
- ***We honor those we LABOR WITH.***

WEEK 6

HONOR

We talk *to* people, not *about* people.

Last week, we talked about one of our Core Values here at DFC. This week, we are hitting on another one: **HONOR IS OUR HABIT**. Honor is simply treating others how you would want to be treated. Here is an explanation of what this means:

"We are vocal with our encouragement. We honor and submit to those in authority over us and we honor those who are under us. We do not talk about people, we talk to people. We always have each other's back."
[dfcnow.org/about]

What are your initial thoughts on this statement?

Do you tend to operate in this way?

Knowing that it honors God when we honor each other is a huge motivator in this regard. In fact, John tells us clearly how important this lifestyle is:

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." [John 13:35 NLT]

You can actually be a visual witness of who God is by the way you interact with others in the church. And this interaction shows the world Whose you really are!

Have you thought of your love as being a testament to who you truly are?

In what ways have you seen love working?

In our group today, we are going to look at honoring as a three-way street, and every branch of this street honors God.

- **Honoring those we follow.**
- **Honoring those we lead.**
- **Honoring those we labor with.**

Honoring others is essential to honoring God. Overall, we can never go wrong when thinking the best of, building up, and encouraging others with a heart of honor.

1. HONORING THOSE WE FOLLOW.

We have all done it — complained about our boss. It is so easy to do because we tend to have a narrow view of only how he/she interacts with us. But what if you realized that you are not the only person your boss is leading? What if you realized that negative interaction with your boss may not entirely be his/her fault?

Do you often try to put yourself in the shoes of those leading you?

How would doing this change your frame of mind towards this person?

Do you know that the Bible is extremely clear about where all types of authority ultimately come from? Paul speaks directly about how our interaction with authority reveals our heart towards God.

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.” [Romans 13:1-2 NLT]

What do these verses teach us about leadership?

How do these verses shape the way you view authority?

When we honor those we follow, we are actually honoring God.

2. HONORING THOSE WE LEAD.

We all follow someone, but we also all lead. This is just as important as the previous point. We as leaders can so easily value or devalue those who are in our care. Whether you realize it or not, your words are big in someone else’s ears.

Share a time when someone shaped your thinking or way of life by their words or influence.

You have this same power. There are people who look to you to lead them, and honoring them looks like care. In fact, when we are not cognizant of this, people can get hurt. But our God is so good to us that He leads us this way:

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." [Psalm 32:8 NLT]

This is how we should lead those we have the privilege of leading.

Do you lead others with a genuine care and love for them?

How do you tangibly do this?

One of the best way to honor those you lead is to praise them publicly. This is not to be confused with flattery; that helps no one. But public praise can build up and encourage better participation, work ethic and morale. Whether this is in the workplace or in the home, it is always best to publicly praise and thank those you are leading.

Are you good at publicly affirming others?

How does it make you feel?

On the contrary, it can be so easy to publicly reprimand someone under our care, but the fact remains that we should praise in public and correct in private.

Why is this a healthy way of leading?

Have you experienced this?

Correcting someone directly and promptly in a private manner shows them love, as well as value. Think of how you would want to be treated in a similar situation.

3. HONORING THOSE WE LABOR WITH.

What a great opportunity we have to cultivate healthy relationships with peers. So often we feel that these are the people with whom we can show our “true colors.” You have the same leaders, maybe you have the same followers, and you feel the need to blow off some steam about one group or another. It is easy to do and, honestly, can be fun for a time. But is this the healthiest way to cultivate unity or even friendships for that matter? This often leads to negative interactions with friends and peers across the board.

What is the focus of your friendships? What do you find yourself discussing with your friends?

Here is a good rule of thumb: “Talk up!”. What does this mean? It means that you talk to those leading you about your frustrations with their leadership. Or, if you have questions about those you are leading, talk to them directly.

It also means that you should not talk to those you labor with or those you lead about frustrations with others you may have. These are healthy ways to cultivate positive interactions and relationships with those around you.

Give some examples of how you can see this working itself out both positively and negatively.

Our hope is that you will put these way to have a heart of honor to the test. When you do, our prayer is that you are able to reap the blessings that come with healthy relationships with those you follow, those you lead, and those you labor with.

Next week, we will take a closer look at the Holy Spirit's role as God, as well as His role in your life.