

APPLICATION

- Showing honor is not hard. It is not giving a reward or trophy. Honoring is simply recognizing the value, worth or respectability of another and showing that to them.
- There are so many ways we can show honor. The following list is but a few ways that we can put honor into practice by truly honoring another.
 1. Stop for a moment and look for the people around you that you often overlook. Others probably overlook them also! Introduce yourself to them, shake their hand, ask their name and repeat their name back to them telling them it is nice to meet them or see them.
 2. Tell someone what you see in them that you really respect, admire or wish you were better at.
 3. Some "old fashioned" ones also like opening and holding the door for someone or letting them go before you into a room.
 4. Probably the most important is simply giving someone your time and attention. Showing them this respect does wonders for you both!

Prayer

O Lord, help us to see what is honorable about others, especially those we are having trouble respecting and honoring, so that we can show proper honor to all people. In Jesus' name. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. Yet there are many setbacks, heartaches and road blocks along the way. Trying to overcome the issues we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to freedom. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Honor

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Who are your heroes and why?
- What are some of the accomplishments of others that just amaze you or inspire you?
- Name a personal accomplishment that you are the most proud of over the years?

WORD

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

Honor is a dying concept in our world today. We still use concepts of honor but we have lost the power of honor. We tend to honor people only for their accomplishments. Kids get put on the honor roll at school for good grades, athletes get honored for their achievements and even public servants get honored for their charitable works. While all of this is good, all our honoring tends to be focused around what someone has done or accomplished. Honor is very limiting when we only recognize the winner, "the best" or the one who achieved a goal that society deems special.

God would have us to honor in a different way. God would have us honor everyone. It is not just honoring the best or those that stand out above the crowd. It is honoring everyone from a perspective of personal humility. True humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. This allows you to think more of others, not just a select few, and see the worth and value of everyone.

Wikipedia defines honor as "showing a perceived quality of worthiness and respectability that affects both the social standing and the self-evaluation of an individual or corporate body." Wow that is a mouth full. I think this is a Godly definition of honor because it shows its power. True honor sees the inherent, God-given worth and respectability of another, not just their accomplishments! Showing this type of honor affects a persons' self-evaluation, self-esteem and ultimately their social standing. God's type of honor lifts everyone up and helps them to see themselves as God sees them ... as valuable!

1 - Honor God!

Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. 1 Sam. 2:30

The list of who we should honor is exhaustive. The ability to do so begins with humility. The best way to develop humility is in thinking about God, which puts our own lives and the lives of others in perspective. God says that those who honor Him, which means to show Him worth and respect, will be honored, but those who don't will be disdained. Have you seen or experienced the truth that the person who honored God was honored?

2 - Honor Your Father & Mother

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you. Deuteronomy 5:16

Understanding honor and learning to show honor beings with God but it is not to stop there. In order to be able to show honor to everyone we must first learn to honor the people closest to us. God gave us the first set of people that we are to learn to honor. It's our parents. Through learning to honor our parents, we practice and develop a lifestyle of honor that will bear good fruit. Have you always found it easy to honor your parents? Why or why not? Do you sometimes find it harder to honor those you know well? Why?

3 - Honor The Less Honored

The parts [of the Body of Christ] that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 1 Corinthians 12:23a, 24b-26

God's goal is for us to develop a lifestyle of honor and truly honor all people because honor builds people up. This is especially true for those who society deems less honorable. So often they are not honored at all but rejected. God knows the power of honor! Honoring the less honorable lifts them up and everyone else is lifted up along with them. Who is someone in your life that you have a difficult time honoring that you need to show more honor? What are some practical ways that you could show them honor?