
Honoring God

Table of Contents

Lesson 1 - I Will Be Honored

Lesson 2 - Honoring With Lips

Lesson 3 - Honorable Entertainment (Part 1)

Lesson 4 - Honorable Entertainment (Part 2)

Lesson 5 - Honoring God's Temple

Lesson 6 - Honoring Your Parents

Lesson 7 - Honoring Your Friend

Lesson 8 - Honoring God With Your Body

Lesson 9 - Honoring Your Spouse

Lesson 10 - Honoring One Another

Lesson 11 - A Vessel For Honor

Lesson 12 - Receiving Honor

Honoring God



Written By: *Charles Willis*
© 2013, All Rights Reserved

*Scripture taken from the
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
Copyright© 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995
by The Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission.
www.Lockman.org*



"Let's give honor to God - our Lord and Savior Barack Obama, Barack Obama, Barack Obama..."

(Jamie Fox, Soul Train Awards, Nov. 25, 2012. www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/2962947/posts. Accessed 7.22.2013.)

"Texas pro-abortion supporters chanted 'hail Satan' during a rally...as a group of pro-life supporters were singing the hymn 'Amazing Grace.'"

(www.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/pro-abortion-crowd-chants-hail-satan.html. Accessed 7.22.2013.)



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

I Will Be Honored

To give honor to God is a very Scriptural concept, yet one that is foreign to much of our thinking. The Hebrew word translated honor means "weighty" and conveys the idea of someone receiving a greater value of importance. The balance scale is weightier for one than it is for another. Even in our society, to honor someone is to pedestalize and lift up someone higher than everyone else.

Sadly, our society honors those who are not honorable. The "heroes" of our culture are often immoral, selfish film stars or politicians. Just consider how the Academy Awards honors those who create immoral films, who portray immorality, and those who create horror and violent acts as an entertainment. This is a truly twisted society that honors the dishonorable, and frequently fails to honor those who are deserving.

God is most deserving of honor, yet mankind has repeatedly failed to honor Him, including our society. "O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception?" (Ps. 4:2). Because we live in this society, we also struggle to develop and maintain a proper honor for God. "It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy" (Is. 8:13).

Our purpose in this workbook is to examine God's attitude about honoring Him, and how we are to honor Him. We will deal with some difficult topics, and you will be uncomfortable considering some of these things. However, we must contemplate God's will and make real applications for our lives. You are encouraged to read the passages each week and be prepared to discuss these important things in class.

HONORING GOD

I Will Be Honored

What Does The Bible Say

Study each of the following verses and indicate God's attitude about honoring Him.

Leviticus 10:1-3

Numbers 20:12 (also 27:12-14)

1 Samuel 2:29-30

John 5:23

Case Study - Belshazzar

Daniel 5:1-31

Discussion

How did Belshazzar dishonor God?

What was God's attitude toward him?

How might we fail to humble our heart before God (5:22)?

Case Study - The Romans

Romans 1:18-23

Discussion

How did they dishonor God?

What was God's attitude toward them?

How might we be guilty of "suppressing the truth in unrighteousness" (1:18)?

Case Study - The Israelites

Malachi 1:6-2:2

Discussion

How did they dishonor God?

What was God's attitude toward them?

How do we dishonor God when trying to worship Him?



78.4% of Americans claimed to be Christians in 2007. (religions.perforum.ord/reports)

64% of Americans use curse words to express anger or frustration. (www.vitalstatistics.info/stat2.asp?id=11798&cid=19&scid=1607)

44% of Americans regularly attend church assemblies. (www.nation,aster.com/graph/rel_chu_att-religion-church-attendance)

Nearly 50% of Americans are living together out of wedlock. Almost 20% are having babies while living together. (www.npr.org/2013/04/04/176203262/stud-record-number-of-people-are-cohabitating)

All websites accessed 7.23.2013.



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring With Lips

Jesus told the Pharisees, "rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men" (Matt. 15:8-9). The Pharisees were not taking care of their aging parents, even though God commanded it. They "invalidated the word of God" for the sake of their tradition (Matt. 15:7).

Many today are doing the same type of thing. The doctrines and traditions of man invalidate God's word. People are left with permission to sin, or so they think. God condemns sin, but their religious doctrine allows it. No where is this more obvious than in religious groups accepting active homosexuals as righteous before God. While that's an extreme case, there are many more examples that we see everyday, and some of which we may be guilty.

Cursing is a good example of how some claim to honor God, but then demonstrate it is not from the heart. James 3:9-10 says "with it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men. These things ought not to be this way." If we worship God from the heart, our heart would not allow us to curse men. Yet because we do curse men, we demonstrate that we only honor God with our lips.

Application of this principle is extremely broad and worthy of consideration. Any sin demonstrates the hypocrisy, yet some are more obvious than others. Things like immodesty, drinking, and vulgar language all cause others to see we only honor God with out lips. We are to keep our "behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:12). Our behavior cannot be hypocritical. Our honoring god cannot be merely the things we say. The idea of others "glorifying" God is the concept of honoring Him. When others see our good works, they are motivated to also obey God and honor Him when Christ returns.

Make sure your heart is close to God and that you honor Him in your heart and not merely with your lips.

HONORING GOD

Honoring With Lips

What Does The Bible Say?

For each passage, state how some were honoring God only with their lips.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 23:1-3

Luke 6:46

Define "glorify" from Psalm 86:11-12 and discuss the meaning in that context.

Case Study - 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Discussion

What was the attitude of Saul's heart?

What was God's attitude toward Saul?

How does self-deception play a part in leading us to only honor God with our lips? Include in the discussion how to prevent self-deception.

Case Study - Catherine LeSalle

As one who always spoke her mind, Catherine had been taught by her parents to keep her tongue under control, and she did. She was quick to tell folks she was a believer and went to worship assemblies regularly, but Catherine's friends knew she had a poor reputation. Her tongue was under control but her fingers were not. Her "speech" through texting, email, and social media was vulgar and rude. Sadly, she "spoke her mind" revealing what still existed in her heart.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

How does social media reveal what is in your heart?

What practices with social media can help us avoid honoring God with our lips only?

Case Study - Alondo Ramirez

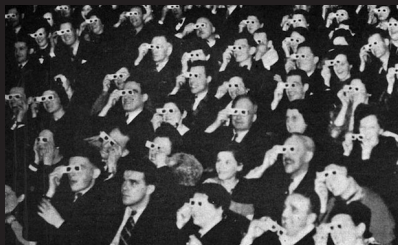
"Good job!" "We're really proud of you!" "You are a big encouragement to me!" Alondo heard all sorts of comments like this after leading a prayer at church Sunday night. He was glad he could do his part in the public assembly. He enjoyed worshipping God. That same evening when he got home he called Cybill and they finalized their plan on how to cheat on the science test at school tomorrow. After he hung up, he went online and watched an illegal copy of the latest Hollywood blockbuster which was still in the theaters.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What is in Alondo's heart?

List three other ways we demonstrate we honor God with our lips only.



By age 18, a U.S. youth will have seen 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence. (American Psychiatric Association)

The average youth living in the U.S. watches television 25 hours a week and plays computer games an additional seven hours. - National Institute on Media and the Family, 1998 study 44% of kids say they watch something different when they're alone than with their parents (25% choose MTV)

Foul language increased overall during every timeslot between 1998 and 2002. Foul language during the Family Hour increased by 94.8% between 1998 and 2002 and by 109.1% during the 9:00 p.m. ET/PT time slot. - Parentstv.org

On average, music videos contain 93 sexual situations per hour (www.focusas.com)

42% of the songs on the top CDs in 1999 contained sexual content (www.focusas.com)

Websites accessed
1.18.2007



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honorable Entertainment

PART 1

We live in an entertainment driven culture. The strength of our economy enables us to have many hours of "free time" every day. The focus of our society has shifted away from good work ethics toward more of an attitude of "what are we going to do tonight" to entertain ourselves.

Because of a lust for the new and more engaging in entertainment, the industry has become deeply seated in sinful practices. Sin appeals to people, and people will pay for it. Why else would Hollywood spend so much money making films about sex, violence, and college drinking parties? Why else would TV programmers be pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable language? Where will all of this end?

As a young person, you are challenged to find wholesome entertainment that honors God. Because we live in this culture we sometimes have trouble identifying what God thinks is right, because we have adopted (to some degree) the attitude of our surroundings. While it may appear that the society has gone completely mad in creating poor entertainment choices, we must not fail to recognize how many good choices are now available.

We all understand that God can be dishonored when a Christian participates in something sinful – even a sinful entertainment. We must equally understand the need to honor Him in our choices. God's will must be carried out in our life since that is what it means to be a Christian. Just because something is fun does not mean it is approved or appropriate. Wisdom is needed, especially in our teenage years.

You are encouraged to consider all aspects of entertainment that involve radio, TV and film. Things like DVD rentals, internet video clips, MP3 files, video games, even cell phones and laptops. These are all things we deal with in the 21st century. We must determine if we are honoring God.

HONORING GOD

Honorable Entertainment

How do the following verses relate to our entertainment choices?

Colossians 3:2-3

Philippians 4:8

Colossians 1:9-10

Ephesians 5:8-17

Ephesians 5:3-4

Case Study - Chad Williams

Since receiving his MP3 player last year Chad has downloaded more than 400 songs. He loves to share them with his friends. Many of the songs with the best beats have lyrics that he used to question. He has learned to not hear those parts and simply enjoys the beat. Carol, a friend in his high school Bible class, spoke with him saying, "are you honoring God when you fill your mind with that?" Chad replied, "God knows I love Him, that's why I was baptized. He wants me to be happy, so I don't think He minds me listening because He knows I don't like the bad words."

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Could Chad be deceiving himself? How?

What happens when Chad starts to sing along?

Case Study – Rene Prieler

Though not old enough to get into an R-rated movie on her own, Rene has been taken to several. Her favorite are the horror movies. Though the language and nudity exist in these movies she claims they are not as bad as in other R-rated movies. She is quick to argue that the violence in the horror movies is obviously pretend, and it is simply an entertainment. It does not affect her in any way. Her father is a deacon in the church and she obeyed the gospel when she was 14.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Why might horror films be dishonoring to God?

Do R-rated movies affect our thinking?

Case Study - Sarah Franklin

It was girls night out. Sarah and her 5 girlfriends were all going to the movie. Jamie was driving since she was the only one with a license. Upon arriving at the theatre they found the theatre had sold out of tickets for the movie they planned to see. The group decided to watch a love story that was rated R. Jamie would get everyone in. Sarah said no, she didn't want to see it. Her friends pressured her because they wanted to see it and everyone needed to stay together. Sarah eventually gave in, knowing the movie contained nudity and cursing. Her friends praised her. Sarah felt guilty for weeks.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What was Sarah's big mistake?

How did Sarah fail to show honor to God?



Dr. A. C. Dixon:
"The modern dance is the fine art of covering with music, indelicate, immodest and oftentimes indecent attitudes and postures between man and women."

Professor W. C. Wilkerson of Chicago University, concludes:
"Dancing is a system of means, contrived with more than human ingenuity, to excite the instinct of sex action."

Professor J. Louis Guyon, owner and operator of one of Chicago's largest dance halls, speaking before the World's Purity Congress: "You can picture the effect on a boy or girl of 18 or 20, when this hunger is keenest, when knowledge and experience are lacking in formation of judgment, in one of these dances which call for close abdominal contact and frequently bring the cheeks together and intertwine the limbs."

All quotes from www.truthmagazine.com/dancing
Accessed 8.1.2013



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honorable Entertainment PART 2

For as long as I have lived, Christian teenagers (and others) have been questioning whether dancing was sinful. Every person must decide on this important issue. While many opinions exist, we must look carefully at the word of God to learn what God thinks.

This is not a new question. People have been dealing with this for years. In the 1920's the popular dance was the Charleston. Soon after came a style of dancing that involved flipping the female over the male and catching her as she slid between his legs (often requiring the girls to wear shorts under their dresses). In the 1950's Elvis came along and invented all sorts of new dance moves including hip shakes, thrusts, and exposed midriffs. In the 1960's (with the proclaimed "free love" of the hippies) came all sorts of provocative dance laced with sexual innuendo. Even in the 1970's, disco reigned which brought in a much closer, touching style of dance. In the 1980's and 90's this led to a style epitomized in the movie Dirty Dancing. Today, this grinding, bumping, touching style of dancing is considered to be normal in most dance halls. Even county music dancing has its slow dances.

With the advent of "Dancing With The Stars", there seems to now be an increased interest in ballroom dancing. It is no better, and in some ways perhaps worse as now there is a glorification of "dirty dancing". Our society sees nothing wrong with most dancing, and encourages young folks to be involved, even as an exercise.

What is the Christian to do? What is the course that would please and honor God? How does the Bible address such questions?

HONORING GOD

Honorable Entertainment

How do the following verses relate to the question of dancing?

1 Peter 2:11

1 Corinthians 15:33

Galatians 5:19-21

2 Peter 3:11, 14

Define the following:

Sensuality (Gal. 5:19 NAS)

Lasciviousness (Gal. 5:19 King James)
[see also Eph. 4:19]

How does this definition impact our understanding of God's will on dancing?

READ Matthew 14:6-12

What sort of dancing was this?

Case Study - Rebekah Steel

During her freshman year at A&M University, Rebekah and her friends went to a dance club. She had never been to a place that sold alcohol, or had dancing as the main attraction. She only went to observe her friends, the first time. It was not long before she was clubbing two-three nights a week. She would typically dance with at least 5-10 different men each night, though she never drank. She justified it to herself as a way to meet new people, to harmlessly have some fun, and it cost almost nothing. Yet, she never mentioned it to her parents, or her friends at church for fear they would condemn her.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What was the appeal in dancing?

In what way was Rebekah honoring God?

Case Study - Brad Lewis

Brad obeyed the gospel when he was 15. He determined then he would live his life for God. When he was a Junior he determined he would go to the Prom with his on-again, off-again girlfriend Denise. She was also a Christian and they had determined they would not dance. After sitting and talking for about an hour they decided there would be no harm. Their friends appeared to be having so much fun. By the second hour they had changed dance partners many times and found they also were having a lot of fun. Brad particular liked close-dancing with so many different girls.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What was so fun about dancing (particularly for Brad)?



52 percent of Texas seniors said they had used alcohol in the past month, and 83 percent of seniors reported they had tried alcohol at some point in their life. (www.tcada.state.tx.us)

Illicit teen drug use as of 2003.

8th grade - 30%

10th grade - 44%

12th grade - 52%

(www.teendrugabuse.us)

In 2004, 22% of high school students were current smokers. Tobacco use is associated with alcohol and illicit drug use, and acts as a "gateway drug." (www.lungusa.org)

All websites accessed 12.19.2006



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring God's Temple

No one would deny that drinking, drugs and smoking are a challenge for young folks today, just as they have been for young folks in the past. All of these are available, even though outlawed. You hear things about the dangers of these substances from teachers, friends and parents. While these are all good sources of information, none of them are as important as what God has to say.

The Bible has a lot to say about drunkenness. None of it is good. In fact, Galatians 5:21 lists drunkenness as a "work of the flesh" and "those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God". Paul tells the Galatians "I forewarn you" (5:21). We also are warned before we participate. With the guidance of God's word we learn without experience to stay away from such things. The consequences are not only devastating in this life, but also in the life to come.

The Bible also condemns the practice of using mind altering drugs. This is sinful. Galatians 5:20 lists "sorcery" as one of the deeds of the flesh. This is from the Greek word *pharmacopia*, from which we get our English word pharmacy. It is referring to the practice of witchcraft which was accompanied with drugs to create hallucinations. Again, a person cannot inherit the kingdom of God when doing such things.

The Bible does not specifically condemn smoking, not that I can find. However there are biblical principles that need to be examined that do impact our understanding of God's attitudes about this habit.

In order to honor God we must know His will. That's the first step. Then we must apply that knowledge to our own life. In the case of drinking, drugs and smoking – we may need to stop sinful behavior that we have already begun. Hopefully this lesson will merely be about avoiding such problems in your life. Either way, the application is necessary.

HONORING GOD

Honoring God's Temple

What does the Bible say about our body?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Romans 12:1-2

How do the following verses relate to the practice of drinking?

Proverbs 20:1

Proverbs 23:29-35

Isaiah 5:11-12

Ephesians 5:18

Case Study - Amy Levinsky

Amy went to Lisa's house for a sleep over. They had been best friends for years, even getting baptized at the same time when they were 13. They've talked about everything from parents to boys. After her parents go to bed, Lisa pulls a packet of cigarettes out of her purse that she said was given to her. She was told it would make you feel so good. She was scared to try it alone, but thought tonight was a great time.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Besides choosing to "just say no", what decision does Amy have to make?

How can a person honor God while getting a friend in trouble?

Case Study - Phillip Arturo

The team list just came out and Phillip is upset because he made second string, again. He had his heart set on being a starting lineman this year. He had done everything asked of him, working out four days a week over the summer. He had put on a lot of muscle. As he walked out of the locker room, James ran him down. "Hey", he said. "Saw the list. Bummer." They walked a little more. "Want to do something about it", he asked? Phillip stopped and looked at him, saying, "Like what?" James looked both directions, then back at Phillip, "Like taking two of these", holding up a small bottle. "They are guaranteed to bulk you up, add mass and make you stronger in just one month. They're steroids like the pro's take. Want to try them?"

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Is this the same as the things spoken of in scripture?

Case Study - Beth Chadwick

It was the worst day of her life. She was failing four subjects, her boyfriend dumped her for her best friend, and today her parents told her they were moving next month. All she wanted was to forget everything. She called Christy and asked her if she could come over to talk. She arranges with her parents to sleep over at Christy's and arrives around 7 only to find there are six other girls there, all drinking. Not just beer. She is invited to "join the party" and forget all her troubles. Having never drank before, Beth was nervous. She agreed to one beer. That's all she remembers.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What wrong steps and/or thinking does Beth pursue which leads her into trouble?

What course of action would have honored God?



One out of every seven youth (15%) will runaway before their 18th birthday (Research Triangle Institute, 1995)

1.4 million children are being raised by their grandparents (www.nick.com/all_nick/everything_nick/kaiser/respect.html)

595 incidents of disruptive, disrespectful or otherwise problematic attitudes and behaviors for an average of 1.34 instances per hour (A Content Analysis of Children's Television March 2, 2006 By Kristen Fyfe) (www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/reports/childrensstudy/main.asp)

All websites accessed 1.6.2007



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring Your Parents

Every adult was once a teenager. No adult would choose to be a teenager again.

Why? Because growing up is hard. God has designed the family to be a safe and helpful environment for growing up, but sometimes we think it is just the opposite. Sometimes parents do a poor job and the home is not a safe place or a help to growing up.

Every teenager has conflicts with their parents. Every parent has conflicts with their teenager. It is a slow and difficult process to transition from a child to an independent adult – both in the thinking of the teen and in the mind of the parent. Along the way the boundaries of authority are sometimes unclear or overstepped. It is at these stressful moments that a teenager and the parent must fall back to what God says is right and appropriate behavior.

Many teens in our society are extremely disrespectful to their parents. It is likely you know many of your friends who bad-talk their parents all the time, who regularly go behind their back and who often hide things from them. They think their parents are totally out-of-touch, and generally think and describe them as idiots. While this has probably always gone on to some extent, it is more blatant and widespread today. If this describes you, please consider this lesson carefully to determine if you are pleasing God when you do this!

Honoring your parents includes obedience, but it is much more than obedience. It is not merely behavior that is the issue. It is about our attitude toward our parents. Do we truly respect them? Does our appreciation for them and what they do for us shine through? When we speak with them does our tone of voice reflect respect or disgust? Do our choices indicate we desire to honor them? Too many times in today's society adolescents are not honoring their parents. Just because the society does it does not mean it is approved of God. We must know God's will. That is the purpose of this lesson.

HONORING GOD

Honoring Your Parents

What Does The Bible Say?

Exodus 20:12

Deuteronomy 27:16

Exodus 21:17

Leviticus 19:2-3

Matthew 15:4-6

Ephesians 6:1-4

Colossians 3:20-21

2 Timothy 3:1-2

Case Study - Fred Keller

"Have a good day", said Fred's mother as he angrily walked out the door. Ted, who was waiting at the street, saw him come out and said, "Is that what your folks made you wear today"? Fred grimaced and said, "Yeah", then he slyly grinned, "but not for long". Before getting in the car he loosened his belt, lowered the waist of his pants, and took off his button up shirt to reveal a t-shirt with a beer logo. Then he got in the car, flipped down the visor and arranged his hair into a fashionable mess. Ted laughed. Fred grinned. "I'll put it all back when I get home"!

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What is Fred's attitude toward his mother?

What does Ted perceive Fred's attitude to be?

Case Study - Mandy Rhime

"...And you're going with Jenny and Karen"? Mandy gave a big sigh and said, "Yes. And we're just going to the mall. And we're not meeting any boys. And we won't go anywhere else. And we won't spend more than \$20. And we promise to behave. And how many times do I have to tell you this"?

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Is Amanda's behavior disrespectful?

What may have contributed to her feelings to say this?

Case Study - Jimmy Brian

"You are not allowed to see her anymore" said Jimmy's father. Jimmy lost it. "You're kidding! You can't stop me from seeing her! I won't stop seeing her!" His father shook his head and said, "You just don't understand the bad influence she is for you". Jimmy yelled, "She's not a bad influence on me. You are. You never let me do what I want. You don't care about my feelings. You're just worried about your reputation!"

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What's wrong with Jimmy's attitude?

How could he have made his points and still shown honor to his father?



Seventeen Magazine and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 505 adolescents ages 15 to 17. The survey found that: 82 percent of participants reported kissing as an activity that is "almost always" or "most of the time" part of a dating relationship while 70 percent of adolescents reported kissing as an activity that is "almost always" or "most of the time" part of a casual relationship. 65 percent of participants reported touching as an activity that is "almost always" or "most of the time" part of a dating relationship while 58 percent reported touching as an activity that is "almost always" or "most of the time" part of a casual relationship (www.siecus.org/pubs/fact/fact0020.html)

A majority of American teenagers date; 85 percent have had a boyfriend or girlfriend; 85-90 percent have kissed someone romantically; and 79 percent have engaged in "deep kissing" (Coles and Stokes, 1985). During adolescence, most teens move from kissing to other more intimate sexual behaviors. More than 50 percent of all teenagers have engaged in petting behaviors. By age 18, more than 75 percent have engaged in heavy petting (Roper, 1994). (www.hec.ohio.state.edu/familife/bulletin/volume.4/bull44f.htm) All accessed 12.16.2006



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring Your Friend

Dating is serious business, but many young adults don't see it that way. Dating is preparation for marriage. In other words: you will marry someone you date. That's the way our society approves of selecting a spouse. Therefore, dating should never be taken lightly. You should only date someone you would consider for marriage.

As in all of life, we need boundaries in dating. Too often young adults have never thought about dating boundaries, or discussed them with their date. There comes a point when "making out" is wrong. Touching each other can be inappropriate. We can reach a point physically when we do not desire to stop, and even are unable to stop. We've certainly crossed one boundary at that point, but we should understand that we had to cross several others to reach this point of losing control.

We show honor to our friend of the opposite sex when we refrain from physical contact. We show honor and respect for our date when we refuse to be alone or to go someplace we ought not be. Physical attraction is real, therefore we need to have firm boundaries we are determined to not cross.

Consider the dishonor we show our date when we get what we want. Our society tells boys they want sex. Our society tells girls to milk the date for all you can get him to spend. Both are wrong for they are selfish and are not displaying attributes of true love (1 Corinthians 13).

We honor our date by considering their soul. How can we participate in sin which will result in not just my own punishment but also in their condemnation? Will God hold us accountable for leading a friend into sin? Have we forgotten everything we ever learned about serving God and being righteous?

What's needed are boundaries and clear headed thinking. This often cannot be accomplished in the "heat of the moment". Instead it must be discussed and decided upon before the date turns "serious".

HONORING GOD

Honoring Your Friend

What Does The Bible Say?

Romans 12:10

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

2 Timothy 2:19-22

1 Peter 2:17

Define:

Sensuality (Galatians 5:19)

Case Study - Jillian Meink

"Well, can you keep a secret?" Jillian asked Sarah. "Yea, yea, tell me quick", she replied. "O.K. I'm going out with Jimmy tonight! He said we were going to drive to the top of the cliff and look at the city lights. I really like Jimmy but I think he wants to do more than look at the lights. I don't want to tell him I don't want to go, but I don't want to push him away either."

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

How can Jillian show honor to Jimmy without driving to the cliff top?

How can Jimmy show honor to Jillian and still drive to the cliff top to look at the lights?

Case Study - Max Maricio

After football practice, Max (a Freshman) is talking with Bill (a Junior). "Petting is a good thing" said Bill. "It tells me how much a girl really loves me and how serious she is about a relationship." "I would think a girl is more serious if she doesn't want to make out like that" said Max. "Shows how much you know" replied Bill. "Petting is a natural development between people who love each other. It's just as normal and as innocent as kissing. Don't you think?"

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Max is obviously "less experienced" than Bill. Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

What's wrong with petting/making out?

Where exactly would God have us "draw the line" for the boundary of acceptable?

Case Study - Kevin Thorp

My parents have all these rules about dating that I just don't get.

1. Always double-date.
 2. Never be alone with a girl.
 3. Dates end at 10 p.m.
 4. No kissing for more than 30 seconds.
- I mean – get real! These "rules" are ridiculous and are just their way of exerting control over me. I can't wait to go out with Shelly next week and prove to them I can break all those rules and still not get in trouble.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Give reasons why each of these rules are good.

What's the danger in breaking these kind of rules?



3 out of every 10 girls become pregnant before the age of 20 in the U.S. (<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national-data/default.aspx>)

In 2011, roughly one-third (34%) of all high school students reported being sexually active—that is, they had sex in the previous three months. Rates of sexual activity were similar among girls (34%) and boys (33%). (http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/FastFacts_YRBS2011.pdf)

In 2011, 15% of high school students reported having already had four or more sexual partners—rates were significantly higher among boys (18%) compared to girls (13%). (http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/FastFacts_YRBS2011.pdf)

All websites accessed
8.2.2013



*"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy,
and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)*

Honoring God With You Body

As with many of the previous lessons, abstinence is all about self-control. The society we live in tells us that pre-marital sex is normal and approved. Very little is ever heard about abstinence outside a religious context. It is frightening to consider how far from removed our society is from godliness.

God has always wanted His children to honor Him with their body. Under the Old Covenant there were many religious washings and cleansings required before a person could enter the presence of God (Ex. 19:10-15; Ex. 30:18-21). Many of these seem to be a shadow of what was yet to come through a baptism in the name of Christ. Even in this sense we honor God with our body in a "ritual washing".

Sexual purity has also been an expectation of God from the beginning. Violations of this law are always punished by God. "Fornication" is unlawful intercourse of any type (homosexuality, adultery, bestiality, etc.). "Adultery" is a specific sin within the scope of "fornication" referring to sexual relations with someone who is married but not your spouse. Our society to a great extent ignores these instructions of God to pursue their own lusts. Review the passages on the next page about purity.

God desires proper spiritual attitudes about serving Him. We cannot simply serve Him with our mind, our entire body must submit. Not only must we be sexually pure, but we must keep our tongue and not walk into places we shouldn't be. Surely this concept is not too difficult to understand. We honor God when we refrain from taking His name in vain, and we honor God when we refrain from premarital sex. We demonstrate with our body the desire to please Him and obey His commands. God's way is always best, even when it is hard for us to obey Him.

HONORING GOD

With Your Body

What Does The Bible Say?

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

- What does it mean your body is for the Lord (v.13)?
- How do you "glorify God in your body" according to this passage (v.20)?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1 Timothy 4:12

Galatians 5:19

Ephesians 5:3-5

Colossians 3:5-6

Case Study - Jeff Carson

Jeff was dating an older, "more experienced" girl. She talked him into going to the drive in theatre. They were alone in the car. She started kissing him and he kissed back. Hands began to roam and the breathing quickly became heavy. "Wait", Jeff said moving to the other side of the car. "I don't like where this is going. I mean, I like you a lot, but I don't want to have sex till I am married".

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What will the "more experienced" girl likely think of Jeff? What will his friends think if they find out?

To what extent should we go in order to "flee immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18)? (See Gen. 39:6-12)

Case Study - Debbie Mills

Frank made sure everyone knew. The rumor was all over school and she hated that. She'd walk down the hall and people would look at her with disdain and grins. Occasionally she would get a "thumb's up" or a pat on the back, even a few sympathizing hugs from close friends. This was something between her and Frank. She confided in him and told her exactly how she felt and believed. Frank was a jerk to tell everyone she was a virgin.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

What is sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3)? How should this effect Debbie's feelings?

Should we be upset to tell someone we are a virgin?

Case Study - Kayla Riggs

Kayla had been dating Aaron for at least a year. They were close, serious and discussing marriage. The family loved him. After the last date, Aaron said, "I love you. Prove that you love me by going to bed with me tonight". Kayla said "no". Aaron warned, "Let's go to bed or I'm finding a new girlfriend". Kayla really did love him, but didn't like this threat. She couldn't imagine losing him, so she agreed.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

How is love proven (1 Cor. 13:1-7)?

How do we prove ourselves to be a believer (1 Tim. 4:12)?

If we agree to premarital sex what have we really proven?



More than 5 million American couples are living together instead of getting married. (2006 Census Bureau report)

From 1960 to 1998, the number of unmarried, cohabiting couples increased nearly tenfold, from 439,000 to 4.2 million.

From 1970 to 1996, the marriage rate in the United States fell by a third, from 77 to 50 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. (www.chicagolandmarriage.org/marriage_statistics.htm)

Cohabiting relationships are far less stable than marriages. (www.chicagolandmarriage.org/marriage_statistics.htm)

All websites accessed 12.17.2006



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring Your Spouse

There is definitely a trend in America to not marry. People are still desirous of being identified as a couple, they just don't want the "strings" attached that come with marriage. Generally this is now referred to as cohabitation. It's funny but sad that men try to change the names of things. God called this immorality.

If we desire to honor God in our lives, one aspect that must be considered are long-term relationships with the opposite sex. God HAS set forth instructions which we are expected to follow in the marriage relationship. Not the least of these is that we are to get married! Cohabitation does not honor God for it is a rejection of His plan in our life. This is not to say that every person must get married. Many godly individuals are mentioned in scripture who were not married (such as Paul), but most folks do have relationships with the other sex.

God intends for us to marry. That was the reason God created Eve. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:24-25). God created woman, but when Adam took her she was his wife. Jesus said this is the way it was intended from the beginning (Matt. 19:4-9).

There are a lot of strange ideas floating around in our society about marriage. The intent of this lesson is to examine what God says so that we will know how to honor Him in our life. If we fail to observe God's commands about marriage, we will be unable to please Him no matter how many other commands we follow. In a real sense then, marriage is a foundational issue that must be correct in our life if we want to honor God.

We've discussed how dating prepares us for marriage. Search God's word and know what He expects from us in the marriage relationship. This will help us know how to find the right kind of mate.

HONORING GOD

Honoring Your Spouse

What Does The Bible Say?

1 Corinthians 7:39 (Romans 7:1-3)

Hebrews 13:4

1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

1 Corinthians 7:1-6

1 Peter 3:1-7

Key Passage - 1 Peter 3:1-7

A relationship is spoken of between a believer and a nonbeliever. The marriage responsibilities have not changed.

How the wife honors the husband:

1. Verse 2

2. Verses 4-6

How the husband honors the wife:

1. Verse 7

2. Proverbs 31:28-29

Key Passage – Eph. 5:22-33

This passage tells us we honor God when we honor our spouse. Many truths are revealed about what the relationship is supposed to be like. Both must work at these principles to make marriage successful and happy. Write down what is said.

How the husband honors the wife:

1. Verse 23

2. Verse 25

3. Verse 28

How the wife honors the husband:

1. Verse 22 and 24

2. Verse 33

Case Study - Marsha Polk

At age 17 Marsha accepted the marriage proposal from Preston. She has not told her parents yet. None of her friends are married yet. She thinks Preston is the right man for her, but they have only been dating for about 4 months. After reading her Bible she questions if Preston is showing the qualities of a good husband. She has misgivings and is now uncertain, yet she has given him her word, and he gave her a ring.

Discussion

Make a list of Bible traits to look for in a spouse. (Use another piece of paper)

What would be the right thing for Marsha and Preston to do if she is uncertain?

How long should an engagement period last?

What should be discussed during this period?



"Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation" (Romans 12:16).

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

"The whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Honoring One Another

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor" (Romans 12:10).

The word translated "honor" means "a value, money paid...by analogy esteem (especially of the highest degree) or the dignity itself" (Strong's #5092). The "one another" must, in context, refer to fellow Christians. God expects all Christians to honor each other.

More than this, we are to "give preference" to one another. We are to "lead the way for others, that is show deference" (Strong's #4285). McCarvey comments that this means "to set an example, to go before." The English Standard Version translates the Greek as "out do one another."

Rather than accepting a low standard of fellowship, such as "do not harm one another" (which many have accepted), we ought to raise our personal standard to agree with Scripture and begin giving preference to one another in honor. This requires personal humility in not thinking of ourselves as better than others. But we must not, in our humility, begin to think we are incapable of giving honor. Furthermore, may feel as if we do not know how to give honor, so we do not try. These attitudes can inhibit our obedience to God's command in Romans 12:10! Just as in obedience to any other command, we learn to obey Him. We grow in our ability to give honor by actually giving honor. We learn by doing. Sadly, many Christians do not obey this command.

Honoring God and His way requires that we develop and maintain a proper attitude toward fellow saints. Failure to obey in this area is just as much disobedience as in any other area. Therefore, read carefully from the passages that follow and give heed to God's instructions.

HONORING GOD

Honoring One Another

What Does The Bible Say?

Indicate how these passages impact your understanding of how you honor a fellow Christian.

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Corinthians 12:26

1 Thess 5:11

1 Peter 5:5-6

1 Peter 4:8-10

How do you "give honor" to:

An elder?

An older widow?

A young mother?

One who led a prayer in the assembly?

A song leader?

Case Study - Tammy Black

Calley was unbelievable! Tammy had been very kind, said nice things, even honored her citing her modest apparel. And how is she repaid? Calley said, "I don't care what you think." Tammy was appalled that a so-called Christian would behave that way. That's the last time she would try to honor Calley.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Is your obedience contingent upon the other person's obedience?

What should be Tammy's attitude?

What should be Calley's attitude?

Case Study - Curtis Riley

After four years, Curtis was finally the oldest teen in the congregation. Everyone in the High School class looked up to him and expected him to know the answers to Bible questions. Knowing he is perceived as a leader, Curtis determines to take the lead by being an example...

Discussion

In what ways should Curtis lead?

Specifically, how should he lead in giving honor?

In reality, how are you showing yourself to be a leader to those near your age?



59% of Americans believe gay or lesbian relations is morally acceptable.

60% of Americans believe having a baby outside of marriage is morally acceptable.

63% of Americans believe sex between an unmarried man and woman is morally acceptable.

32% of Americans believe sex between teenagers is morally acceptable.

31% of Americans believe pornography is morally acceptable.

All statistics from www.gallop.com/poll/162689/record-high-say-gay-lesbian-relations-morally-ok
Accessed 6.25.2013



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

A Vessel For Honor

"Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Tim. 2:20-21). God intends that we be useful, a sanctified individual, a vessel for honor.

Our society sees little need to be righteous before God. Sin is considered morally acceptable - meaning what God says is sin is not considered wrong by people. While we are grieved at the state of our society, we must not think this is a new phenomenon. All societies based on what man things have degenerated morally. The Roman society, in many ways, was much worse than modern America, but we are rapidly moving toward their level of moral bankruptcy.

In the midst of such perverse morality, God intends that we be a vessel for honor. We cleanse ourselves from sinful things and keep ourselves pure in order to be useful to God. Too often we think being a Christian is about our personal needs and the benefit to the individual. God indicates being a Christian (sanctified) is all about making ourselves fitted for use where He wants. As servants of God we stand out from the morally bankrupt society as being different (Matt. 5:13-16), not even maintaining an appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22).

If this point is understood and adopted, we then become a servant seeking opportunity to serve. The "vessel of honor" not only gives honor, but receives it (more in lesson 12). You are urged to examine your life in comparison with the Scriptures on the next page and devote yourself to serving God as a vessel of honor.

HONORING GOD

A Vessel For Honor

List the ways in which Scripture says we are a vessel of honor.

Psalms 50:15

Proverbs 14:31

Proverbs 3:9

Romans 12:10

1 Timothy 5:17

1 Peter 2:17 / Romans 13:7

Study and discuss 1 Corinthians 10:31. Define the Greek word translated "glory."

Case Study - Jacob Keen

Jacob hated biology class. He loved the subject, but hated the class. The teacher pushed evolution every time the opportunity came up, which seemed to be every day. After four months, Jacob had to speak up. While discussing cellular regeneration the teacher again stated how single cell amoebas evolved into multi-celled amoebas. With a turning stomach Jacob raised his hand to contest what the teacher said...

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Give Jacob's response in a way that would demonstrate he was a vessel of honor.

Case Study - Emma Cascella

Everyone her age had a part time job, as did Emma, but she also volunteered two afternoons a week. It made getting homework done a lot harder, but she was driven to do what she could be helping make an evening meal at the homeless shelter downtown. It was humbling to consider she made more in her part time job than the adults she helped feed. Her friends asked all the time "why did she do it", and her answer remained the same: God blessed her and this was one way she could honor Him by helping others.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

How did Emma honor God before her friends?

How did Emma demonstrate a servant's attitude?

Case Study - Parker McCaslin

Parker was very happy to be the political columnist for the school paper. The paper was very popular in his small town, even being distributed to many of the town businesses and made available at the grocery store. Since the last election, Parker had grown to vehemently dislike the current President and his political party. It was finally time to put some facts in front of his readers so they will stop electing these people to office. He purposefully set down to write an article that would leave no room for rebuttal...

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

How could Parker write his column and still obey 1 Peter 2:17? In his role as a writer, how can he demonstrate he is a vessel of honor?



The congressional Medal of Honor is awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. First awarded in 1861, there have been a total of 3,480 recipients as of July, 2013.

(www.wikipedia.org/wiki/medal_of_honor) Accessed 7.26.2013

In 2013, Jennifer Lawrence won an Oscar for an actress in a leading role for the film Silver Linings Playbook. She portrayed a woman who was fired from her job for having affairs with coworkers. In the rater R film she dances in a sultry way and has a scene where she disrobes.

(<http://oscar.go.com/nominees/actress-in-a-leading-role/jennifer-lawrence>) Accessed 8.1.2013



"By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3)

Receiving Honor

All men desire to be recognized by their fellow man and to be shown honor of some sort. This appeal is not about money or power, but more about fame. Ancient kings engraved stones telling of their exploits about how they were the greatest of kings. Pride is at the base of this appeal. While we should not be purposefully seeking the praise of men (Matt. 6), Scripture does reveal how some will become honorable.

Jesus said, "How can you believe (in Him), when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" (John 5:44). We are to seek the glory from God. We are to desire for God to honor us. Too often we are more interested in the honor from men. Jesus teaches we are not able to believe in Him till we first develop a desire to be honored by God. "Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority" (1 Thess. 2:6).

Some men remain honorable by their conduct and choices. These are not seeking the honor of men, but nevertheless receive it. God has revealed much about how we should live, and why others would seek to honor us. We should develop a character in accordance with what pleases God. Whether men acknowledge God or not, they will seek to honor a godly character.

For the one honored, there comes additional challenges to remain humble, and not grow conceited. For this reason an elder cannot be "a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6). The honor in recognizing a man meets the Scriptural qualifications for elder can cause a man to become prideful. This is a danger of which we must all be aware.

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

HONORING GOD

Receiving Honor

What Does The Bible Say About Receiving Honor From Men?

Proverbs 3:35

Proverbs 11:16

Proverbs 15:33; 18:22; 29:23

Proverbs 21:21

Proverbs 19:11

Proverbs 13:18

Proverbs 27:18

What Does The Bible Say About Receiving Honor From God?

John 12:26

1 Samuel 2:30

1 Peter 1:7

Case Study - Olivia Crisp

Everyone was disgusted with Olivia because she did not deserve the honor of representing the school at the speech tournament. She worked hard at receiving the honor, but did not work hard on her speech. Everyone saw the plates of cookies, the endless "help" to the teacher before, during, and after school. Everyone knows she worked like a dog for the last three months. Everyone also knows she will lose at the regional tournament. Such an empty honor.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Who's honor was Olivia seeking? What's wrong with this?

What would have been a godly attitude for Olivia?

Case Study - Frank Holzer

Frank couldn't believe his name had been called. It was the end of the year sports banquet and he was being honored with the coveted Coaches Scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Everyone was standing and applauding as he walked to the podium. In disbelief he shook the coaches hand and said, "are you sure you got the name right?" The coach smiles and said, "absolutely!" He then told the audience Frank was not the best athlete, nor the best student, but was given the award for having an admirable character, demeanor and for his work ethic.

Discussion

Is this scenario realistic?

Who's honor was Frank seeking?

How might men honor us if we develop and display a godly character and demeanor?

How does Frank remain humble?