

## *“Honor”*

It's all about honor. Honor is defined as follows: (1) to reverence, (2) any expression of respect or of high estimation by words or actions, (3) exalted rank or place, (4) any act by which reverence and submission are expressed, (5) to worship, (6) to adore, (7) to glorify (Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language).

We know from the Word that God desires women to honor their husbands by respecting them, being subject to them and adapting to them (Ephesians 5:22-24). Ephesians 5:33 AMP says *“...and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband (that she notices him, regards him, prefers him, venerates and esteems him; and that she defers to , praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly.)”* Before our hearts fail us dear sisters – remember it is not what we haven't done – but the steps of obedience we are willing to “walk out” that counts. The Lord enables us, we obey Him, and we grow! Thank You Lord for outpoured grace.

Children are told to honor their parents and obey them (Ephesians 6:1-3). Servants are told to respect and obey their masters as service to Christ Himself (Ephesians 6:5-8). We are to treat all men with honor and respect, love the brotherhood, and reverence God (1Peter 2:17). So we see that honor is not just a high opinion of someone – but an everyday expression of our love for God that is worked out in relationships (first with Him and then with others), in our serving, in our conduct (at home and the work place, at Church, and our neighborhood), in all that we do and are. Jesus said we are to love the Lord with all that we are and all that we have (Matthew 22:37). He said we are to worship the Lord our God and serve only Him (Matthew 4:10). He said that whoever serves him must follow Him (John 12:26). All of these HONOR THE LORD.

The highest honor we can give to the Lord is to love Him. Henry Blackaby said *“Everything in your Christian life, everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will, depends on the quality of your love relationship to God.”*

C.S. Lewis said *“A mans' spiritual health is exactly proportional to his love for God.”*

He chose us before the foundation of the world. He loved us first. He brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. He delights in us, and rejoices over us with joy. Our lives have purpose only because of Him. He has given us the privilege of bringing others to Him. He wants us and needs us as His dear heart hungers for relationship. His constant invitation is to come to Him.

The relationship He desires is one of closeness and intimacy where we cleave to Him and depend on Him for everything. Intimacy means (1) close familiarity or fellowship: nearness, (2) One to whom the thoughts of another are entrusted without reserve, (3) to share together, (4) to love entirely, (5) a union of parts (you are one with Him). We stay close to Him (by choice) in many ways. There must be regular, consistent time with Him – loving, praising and thanking Him. Time to share our deepest needs, thoughts, desires, and problems. Time to lift Him up, time to study His Word, time to sit with Him, enjoy His Presence, and receive from Him. The closer we get to Him – the more we will receive and the more we will be able to give. Every need we have He cares about. He wants us to remain in Him and He in us and lovingly says that our obedience will cause us to remain in His love (John 15:1-10). As we grow there will be a deepening of our relationship. Intimacy requires putting Him first in everything, commitment, obedience and time. He does and will reveal Himself – and with the revelation, life will be ministered to us, and a desire for more of Him. In all the ways we will look at honoring Him, love for Him will be the motivation. Love for Him will be expressed in obedience, in our conduct and life-style, in our desire to bring others to Him, in our prayers and giving, in our thanksgiving and gratefulness for all He is and all He does for us. When we reach out in love and serve others we are ministering to Him and He is honored. In fact,

whatever you do to help others – feed, care for, visit, clothe – Jesus said you did it to Him (Matthew 25:35-40 NIV)!

There is a simple (but profound!) story in the Word that will give us greater understanding of honor. *“Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume”* (John 12:1-3NIV). In response to Judas Iscariots’ objection Jesus said *“Leave her alone. It was meant that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me”* (John 12:7-8 NIV).

Jesus was close and dear to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Because of their great love and appreciation for Jesus and what He had done they had a dinner in His honor. There were differences from the last time Jesus had come to dinner. Their love and devotion to and for Him certainly had increased. This time *“Martha served”* – without complaint or comparison like the time before (See Luke 10:41-42). Her motive was her love for Him and she was willing and did what she did heartily for Him and Him alone – not for men, or the approval of men. What a change! Love, honor, and service all go together. Lazarus was reclining at the table with Jesus – admiring, loving, and listening to the One who had raised him from the dead! Give honor to whom it is due! Imagine having dinner with the *“Bread of Life”* – with Him who said *“I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me – will never die”* (John 11:25-26 NIV).

Mary was last seen sitting at Jesus feet (Luke 10:39), desiring and hungering for spiritual truth. In this desire she was serving Him, wanting more. In the Scripture in John 12 she served Him in an act of worship by anointing Him with costly oil (a year’s wages for a common worker). Mary perhaps sensed Jesus approaching death, or not knowing why she did it poured the oil on His feet (the place where she formerly sat and learned from the Master). The Message records she not only anointed His feet, but also massaged them. Then she wiped them with her hair (a respectable woman did not undo her hair in public). It was a servant’s job to attend to feet (remember Jesus washing the disciples feet) showing her humility and selfless service. An unusual act – certainly not understood by those around her. Her love for her Master was greater than acceptance and approval. Jesus said *“I must fall and die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrows of the earth. Unless I die I will be alone – a single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels – a plentiful harvest of new lives”* (John 12:23,24LB). We see a perfect picture of dieing to and denying self in Jesus – and in Mary dieing to herself and living for Him – what He desires and is longing for in these days – people who will give themselves to Him for whatever will bring Him honor!

All that Mary (and Martha and Lazarus) did will be remembered, noticed, and rewarded by the Lord. And so it is with your life – your love, your worship, your service, your following the Lord in whatever He asks of you. Jesus *“My Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me”* (The Message John 12:26). *“Those who honor me I will honor...”* (1 Samuel 2:30NIV). We seek not our own honor but His – and in return receive the honor that comes only from God! Hallelujah!!

“LOVE GOD, your God,  
walk in all His ways,  
do what he’s commanded,  
embrace him,  
serve him  
with everything you are and have.”  
The Message- Joshua 22:5

Honoring Him with you -  
Toni Quinn

**For His Glory Women’s’ Ministry**