

Subject: *Honoring God Our Father*

Scripture: *1 Samuel 2:22-30*

We see several things in this story: the corruption of Eli's sons (vs. 22-25); the contrast to a godly son, Samuel (vs. 26); and the confrontation of the man of God and Eli (vs. 27-30).

Verse 30 contains a very important truth – Those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. In other words, honor God and He will honor you; despise God and He will think little of you.

What does it mean to honor God? The OT word for honor is *kabad*, from a root word that means heavy, weighty. The word for honor is also translated glory. The NT word for honor is *time*, which means to place a high value on someone or something. So to honor God means to treat Him as weighty and to place a high value on Him. How are we to honor God?

1. Honor God for who He is and what He has done (vs. 27-28)

The man of God reminded Eli that God had graciously appeared to his forefather Aaron when he was in Egypt and chose him to be priest. He gave Aaron and his descendents the privilege of serving as priests, to offer holy sacrifices, to burn incense, and to wear the sacred garments that only priests could wear. God is a holy God and He chose the priests to be holy and set apart.

1 Peter 1:15-16¹⁵ *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*¹⁶ *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

1 Peter 2:9-10⁹ *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:*¹⁰ *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

2. Honor God in your worship (vs. 29)

The man of God rebuked Eli and his sons for kicking at (scorning, making light of) God's sacrifices and His offerings. Note that the things connected with worship belong to God and represent God. The way we approach worship is an expression of the way we approach God. A low view of worship is evidence of a low view of God. We may be in the place of worship and go through the motions of worship, we may sing the right songs and say the right words in worship, and yet not have our heart right in worship.

Isaiah 29:13 *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.*

Malachi 1:6-8⁶ *A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?*⁷ *Ye offer*

polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. ⁸ And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

The Bible teaches us to honor His name, His Word, and His Day (Lord's Day). We set all these aside in our heart as special. Nothing is more important to us, and nothing more special.

3. Honor God above all people and relationships (vs. 29)

The man of God rebuked Eli for honoring his sons before Him. He was more concerned about pleasing his boys than pleasing his God. It is possible to put a higher value on our family than on God. It happens all the time, and yet we say, "but God knows my heart." That's right, he does and it shows in the choices we make.

4. Honor God in your family (vs. 29)

The Bible teaches that parents are to love and train their children.

***Ephesians 6:4** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

The Bible teaches that children are to love and obey their parents.

***Exodus 20:12** Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

***Ephesians 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

5. Honor God with your money and possessions

***Proverbs 3:9** Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.*

The Bible teaches how to honor God by the way we earn it, use it, and give it.

6. Honor God by honoring His Son Jesus

***John 5:22-23** ²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: ²³ That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.*

***John 12:26** If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.*

How do we honor Christ? First of all we accept Him for who He is. He is the Christ, the Son of God. Then we submit to Him as Lord and Savior. We turn from our sins and put our trust in Him as our Savior. We learn His Word and obey Him. This is what it means to honor Him.

7. Honor God for His work in creation and redemption

We honor God as the one who made us and redeemed us. He gave us physical life and spiritual life in salvation.

Revelation 4:11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

1 Timothy 1:16-17 ¹⁶ *Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.* ¹⁷ *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Revelation 5:12 *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.*

Does your life truly honor God?