

# Honorable

## Pt. 4 - Honoring God

Opening story - Atheist on a plane - "Oh God!"

Note - To dishonor people is foolish. To dishonor God is fatal.

Example - Hophni and Phinehas

1 Samuel 2:30, But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

Note - Their demise is recorded in 1 Samuel 4  
Their wickedness included treating worship with contempt and bringing sexual sin into the church.

1 Samuel 2:12-16, Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the LORD 13 or for their duties as priests. Whenever anyone offered a sacrifice, Eli's sons would send over a servant with

a three-pronged fork. While the meat of the sacrificed animal was still boiling, 14 the servant would stick the fork into the pot and demand that whatever it brought up be given to Eli's sons. All the Israelites who came to worship at Shiloh were treated this way. 15 Sometimes the servant would come even before the animal's fat had been burned on the altar. He would demand raw meat before it had been boiled so that it could be used for roasting. 16 The man offering the sacrifice might reply, "Take as much as you want, but the fat must be burned first." Then the servant would demand, "No, give it to me now, or I'll take it by force." 17 So the sin of these young men was very serious in the LORD's sight, for they treated the LORD's offerings with contempt.

Note - How many of us refuse to worship, or try to worship our way instead of God's way, or pretend to worship while having no real commitment to God?

1 Samuel 2:22, Now Eli was very old when he heard about everything that his sons were doing to all the

people of Israel and how they were having sex with the women who were stationed at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Note - Every sin is grievous, but sex sin is especially egregious to God. Almost all pagan religion and rituals center around sex sin.

1 Corinthians 6:18, Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

Examples - The golden calf, Sodom and Gomorra

Note - Modern Christianity has turned a blind eye to heterosexual sin for decades (divorce, adultery, living together) and now it is doing the same with homosexuality.

1 Peter 2:9, But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Note - What kind of priest will you be? Honorable or dishonorable?

## **How We Honor God**

1. We honor God with our worship.

Note - A dishonoring spirit attempts to steal worship from God for oneself.

Psalm 50:23, Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God.

Note - This was Lucifer's sin and he longs to persuade us to follow him in it.

Example - Making room for the Holy Spirit

2. We honor God by obeying His Word.

Note - Satan's original tactic was to get mankind to doubt God's Word.

John 14:15, Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will do as I command."

Note - Phinehas name means "The serpents tongue." We must align with the truth of God's Word, not the lies of the devil.

Example - The will of God

Quote - If God gave you a watch, what would honor Him more? To ask Him what time it is or to look at the watch He has given you?

(Tozer)

LOOK AT THE WATCH

3. We honor God with our wealth.

Note - Compared to most of the world we are wealthy!

Proverbs 3:9, Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops...

Note - Honor gives God our first and our best. It puts God first, dishonor puts us first.

Matthew 6:33, But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Note - This is what the Israelites were attempting to do but a dishonoring spirit will attempt to circumvent first fruits every time!

Quote - "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." (Calvin Coolidge)  
"I will honor those who honor me."

4. We honor God with our witness.

1 Peter 3:15, Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.

Note - A dishonoring spirit will attempt to cover one's own sin.

The name Hophni means "To cover."

Example - Adam and Eve's fig leaves

Note - God can't cover what we won't uncover.

We cover with lies, excuses, justifications -  
He covers with grace, forgiveness and deliverance!

Mark 16:15, And then (Jesus) told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

Note - Honorable priests point to our departure from darkness.

- A dishonoring spirit results in the departure of God's glory.

1 Samuel 4:19-22, Eli's daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near her time of delivery. When she heard that the Ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth. 20 She died in childbirth, but before she passed away the midwives tried to encourage her. "Don't be afraid," they said. "You have a baby boy!" But she did not answer or pay attention to them. 21 She named the child Ichabod (which means "Where is the glory?"), for she said, "Israel's glory is gone." She named him this because the Ark of God had been captured and because her father-in-law and husband were dead. 22 Then she said, "The glory has departed from Israel..."



