

Honor

Treating someone or regarding them with special attention and respect



Wedding vows spoken, even today, often contain a phrase that husband and wife vow to honor one another. Sadly, that promise seems to fall away soon after the wedding ceremony. We've counseled couples, married only a year or two, who not only dishonor each other, but justify their dishonoring behavior with variety of excuses. The Word of God tells us to; "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10) We are commanded to honor our brothers and sisters in the Lord; how much more should we be treating our spouse with special attention and respect. Yet, who do we dishonor the most? The one we've promised to love, honor, and cherish all the days of our lives. Friends, this should not be so!

Jesus never dishonored the leadership of Israel during His life on earth. If anyone had a good reason to not honor someone or a group of people, we could conclude that Jesus had many reasons to not honor those who were jealous of Him and sought to discredit Him and even bring about His downfall - even to the point of manufacturing lies to dishonor Him to the point of deserving a horrible death - a death reserved for the most despicable of their society. Again, we can attempt to justify our dishonorable behavior, but guess what? That justification puts us in league with the Sadducees and Pharisees of Jesus' time. We *must* stop thinking that is OK to dishonor our spouse—EVER! Sure, we may need to set boundaries to protect ourselves from a dishonoring or hurtful spouse and yes, we must address wrong behavior, but we do not have to do that in a dishonoring way.

The first thing we must do is humble ourselves - get over ourselves and *our rights*. Proverbs 18:12 tells us that humility comes before honor. Do we need a downfall to deal with our prideful heart? As we accept the fact that we are broken, dysfunctional human beings in need of God's grace, we then are able to extend that grace to those around us - especially to our spouse. Our spouse is worthy of honor because he or she is God's creation. As imperfect as our spouse is, we are commanded to treat them with honor. And perhaps, once we begin honoring our spouse; regarding him or her with special attention and respect, they will respond to the change and begin treating us differently also.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out:

How to Honor Each Other in Marriage by Brad & Heidi Mitchell - buildyourmarriage.org

Honoring Each Other by Steve & Cindy Wright - marriagemissions.com