



HONOR & RESPECT

WEEK FOUR: AGE BEFORE BEAUTY

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During this message series, we've learned about the value of honor and respect. But what happens when honor and respect are denied? The story of David and his son Absalom gives a picture of how relationships can go wrong when honor and respect aren't shown. Let's take a look at how showing honor and respect to your parents is worship to God.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Showing honor and respect for our parents looks different at various stages of life, especially if they're no longer with you. It's not always easy. Sometimes it's because of how we were treated and other times it's simply because we're not able to let go of the past. How do you show your parents honor as an adult? If you are comfortable, share where you are at in dealing with those difficulties and how you are doing in overcoming them.

Into the Bible

- 2) David's son Absalom tried to overthrow him as king. **Read 2 Samuel 15:1-16, 18:5-7, 15, 31-33** to see the account of Absalom's rebellion. How did Absalom use manipulation to win over the people of Israel? How was that dishonor? How does Absalom's dishonor compare with the way Joab honors David?

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- 3) The story of Absalom isn't the only warning of dishonor in the Bible. Dishonor can have short term rewards, but it will destroy you in the long run. **Read** the following passages that deal with dishonor and disrespect and their consequences. How, and why, are Jesus followers called to honor and respect those in authority over us? What are the dangers of dishonor and disrespect?
- a. 1 Samuel 2:27-31
 - b. Exodus 20:12 (referred to in Matthew 15:3-9 & Ephesians 6:1-3)

How Does This Apply?

- 4) **Read Matthew 26:38-39.** Jesus, who is fully God *and* fully man, wrestled with obeying God the Father. He was honest about the difficulty in honoring God, and even pleaded for another way. Jesus did this without dishonoring or disrespecting His Father. How can you wrestle with what God, parents, and other authorities expect of you while still showing honor? How can Jesus' example empower you?
- 5) Whether it's your parents or another authority figure, there most likely is someone you have a difficult time showing honor towards. You find yourself undermining, manipulating, or blatantly disrespecting them. How can you intentionally honor them, whether you feel they deserve honor or not? This might be a difficult process, but what is your next step? If you're able, share some specific actions with your group. Allow the members of your group to encourage, pray for, and follow up with you.



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- 6) If you're a parent, you want your children to honor you. Are you taking the time to lay the foundation for your kids on what it means to honor you and others? Do you take plenty of "Pepsi breaks", as George terms them? Be as specific as possible.

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 7) One of the first stories of dishonor in the Bible is Cain and his brother Abel (see Genesis 4). Cain dishonored God with his offering, and was jealous of Abel for having an accepted offering. Then he made a plan to kill Abel and God warned him "sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you." The word "desires" in Genesis 4:7 translates in Hebrew as *šûqâh*, and it's only used a few places in the Bible. It literally means to stretch out after, in the sense of gaining mastery over something or someone. It is also used in Eve's consequence for the first sin, which also dishonored God. How did Eve and Cain's dishonor affect them long term? What does this say about the nature of sin? What can feeding dishonor do to you?