

## HONORING YOUR LEADER

**Key Theme:** Honor in the house of God reflects honor toward the God of the house.

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### **I. You Will Never Honor a Leader If You Don't Honor God**

Honor begins vertically before it is expressed horizontally. If a person struggles to submit to God's authority, they will struggle to respect delegated authority.

**Teaching Emphasis:**

Leadership in the church is not a popularity position—it is a divine assignment. To dishonor God's appointed servant is to disregard God's order.

**Key Scriptures:**

- 1 Samuel 2:30
- Hebrews 13:17
- Romans 13:1–2

When we honor God, we respect what He establishes. Rebellion against spiritual authority often reveals a deeper resistance to God Himself.

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### **II. Honor Is Biblical**

Honor is not cultural—it is covenantal. Scripture repeatedly commands believers to honor those whom God has positioned in leadership.

**Teaching Emphasis:**

Honor includes respect, support, obedience in the Lord, prayer, protection of reputation, and proper care.

**Key Scriptures:**

- 1 Timothy 5:17
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13
- 1 Peter 2:17

The Bible never presents honor as optional. It is part of spiritual maturity.

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### **III. God Never Said Honoring Your Leader Is Wrong — He Said the Opposite**

Nowhere does Scripture condemn proper honor for a leader. Instead, it warns against dishonor, slander, and rebellion.

**Teaching Emphasis:**

There is a difference between worship and honor. We worship God alone, but we honor those He appoints.

**Key Scriptures:**

- Numbers 12:6–8
- Luke 10:16
- 2 Chronicles 20:20

When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, God defended His servant. When people receive the one God sends, they receive God's blessing.

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#### **IV. Biblical Examples of Honoring the Man of God (and the Results)**

##### **1. Elijah & Elisha – Honor Releases Double Portion**

- 1 Kings 19:19–21
- 2 Kings 2:9–15

Elisha honored Elijah by serving faithfully, staying close, and refusing to leave him. Because of his honor and loyalty, he received a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

**Result:** Increased anointing, expanded ministry, multiplied miracles.

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##### **2. The Shunammite Woman – Honor Produces Miracles**

- 2 Kings 4:8–17

She recognized Elisha as a holy man of God and built a room for him.

**Result:** Supernatural provision and the gift of a son.

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##### **3. David Honoring Saul – Honor Preserves Destiny**

- 1 Samuel 24:6

Even when Saul pursued him unjustly, David refused to touch "the Lord's anointed."

**Result:** God elevated David in due time.

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#### **V. Biblical Examples of Dishonor (and the Consequences)**

##### **1. Korah – Rebellion Brings Destruction**

- Numbers 16:1–35

Korah challenged Moses' God-given authority. His rebellion was cloaked in spiritual language but rooted in pride.

**Result:** The earth swallowed him and his company.

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##### **2. Absalom – The Spirit of Division**

- 2 Samuel 15:1–6

Absalom subtly stole the hearts of the people while undermining King David. He created distrust and positioned himself as the better option.

##### **Teaching Emphasis:**

The Absalom spirit is alive when:

- People campaign instead of serve
  - They gather supporters in secret
  - They undermine leadership publicly or privately
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- They manipulate emotions to gain influence

**Result:** Absalom died hanging between heaven and earth—rejected by both.

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## **VI. The Principle: Honor Positions You for Increase**

Dishonor closes doors. Honor opens heaven.

When we honor spiritual leadership:

- We align with divine order
- We protect unity
- We position ourselves for spiritual growth
- We attract God's favor

### **Closing Scripture:**

Hebrews 13:17

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### **Final Charge**

If you want God to elevate you, learn to honor where you are planted.

If you want a double portion, learn to serve faithfully.

If you want unity in the church, reject the Absalom spirit.

Honor is not weakness.

Honor is strength under submission.

And where honor flows, blessing follows.

## Some Ways You Dishonor Your Pastor

### THE CONTRAST

AREA	DISHONOR	HONOR
<b>1. Fear of God &amp; Leadership</b>	Claims to honor God while disregarding or minimizing the pastor's authority. <i>Luke 10:16; Romans 13:1-2</i>	Fears God and therefore respects and receives the leader God has appointed. <i>Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</i>
<b>2. Conflict Handling</b>	Publicly corrects or exposes leadership. <i>Matthew 18:15; Ecclesiastes 10:20</i>	Addresses concerns privately and respectfully. <i>Matthew 18:15; Proverbs 25:9</i>
<b>3. Unity (Church Body)</b>	Spreads complaints, entertains division, or participates in negative discussions. <i>Proverbs 16:28; Philippians 2:14</i>	Protects unity and redirects conversations toward peace. <i>Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:2</i>
<b>4. Humility</b>	Compares themselves or seeks recognition above leadership. <i>2 Corinthians 10:12; Philippians 2:3</i>	Serves with humility and esteems others above self. <i>Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:3</i>
<b>5. Support of Leadership &amp; Vision</b>	Withholds support or resists implementation of direction. <i>Hebrews 13:17; Luke 11:23</i>	Publicly supports and actively carries out the vision. <i>1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Habakkuk 2:2</i>
<b>6. Protection of Leadership</b>	Allows criticism, gossip, or attacks against leadership. <i>Exodus 23:1; Psalm 101:5</i>	Defends leadership and shuts down harmful speech. <i>Proverbs 31:8-9; Titus 3:10</i>
<b>7. Loyalty</b>	Builds a personal following or influence base. <i>1 Corinthians 1:12-13; Acts 20:30</i>	Points people to the house vision and maintains unity. <i>1 Corinthians 3:5-7; John 3:30</i>
<b>8. Order &amp; Boundaries</b>	Operates independently, oversteps authority, or bypasses structure. <i>1 Corinthians 14:40; 3 John 9</i>	Respects structure, boundaries, and proper channels. <i>Proverbs 11:14; Hebrews 13:7</i>
<b>9. Integrity in Ministry</b>	Uses influence or teaching to subtly undermine leadership. <i>2 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 2:7-8</i>	Teaches in alignment with the vision and spirit of the house. <i>1 Peter 4:11; 2 Timothy 1:13</i>
<b>10. Prayer</b>	Neglects covering leadership in prayer. <i>1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Timothy 2:1-2</i>	Consistently prays for leadership's strength and wisdom. <i>Colossians 4:3; 1 Samuel 12:23</i>

AREA	DISHONOR	HONOR
<b>11. Speech</b>	Speaks critically, casually, or disrespectfully about leadership. <i>Numbers 16:3; James 3:16</i>	Speaks with respect, gratitude, and restraint. <i>1 Timothy 5:17; Proverbs 15:23</i>
<b>12. Action</b>	Verbal support without obedient follow-through. <i>Luke 6:46; Psalm 78:36–37</i>	Aligns both words and actions with leadership direction. <i>James 1:22; Luke 6:46</i>
<b>13. Role Alignment</b>	Attempts to lead what God assigned to the pastor. <i>Numbers 16:8–10; Hebrews 5:4</i>	Functions faithfully within assigned role. <i>Acts 6:2–4; 1 Corinthians 12:18</i>
<b>14. Servant Leadership</b>	Treats position as status, control, or recognition. <i>Mark 10:42–43; 3 John 9</i>	Serves with humility and a servant's heart. <i>Acts 6:3; Mark 10:44</i>
<b>15. Handling Disagreement</b>	Challenges decisions publicly or gathers opposition. <i>Numbers 16:3; James 3:16</i>	Handles disagreements privately with respect. <i>Proverbs 19:20; Matthew 18:15</i>
<b>16. Confidentiality</b>	Shares sensitive leadership matters inappropriately. <i>Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 20:19</i>	Guards confidential matters and maintains trust. <i>Proverbs 25:9–10; 1 Corinthians 4:2</i>
<b>17. Unity Among Leaders</b>	Creates factions within leadership teams. <i>1 Corinthians 3:3–4; Galatians 5:15</i>	Works in unity with other leaders. <i>Psalms 133:1; Ephesians 4:3</i>
<b>18. Care for the Pastor</b>	Ignores the pastor's burdens and well-being. <i>Philippians 2:21; Galatians 6:2</i>	Helps carry the pastor's burden and supports them. <i>Acts 6:1–3; Galatians 6:6</i>
<b>19. Spiritual Awareness</b>	Treats leadership as merely natural or positional. <i>1 Corinthians 2:14; Numbers 12:8</i>	Recognizes the spiritual assignment on leadership. <i>1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 5:17</i>
<b>20. Example to the Church</b>	Models inconsistency, criticism, or resistance. <i>Titus 1:7; Matthew 23:3</i>	Sets a consistent example of honor and submission. <i>1 Timothy 3:8–13; 1 Peter 5:3</i>



## HONORING THE LEADER IN YOU

### Key Scriptures:

- ❖ 1 Timothy 4:16
- ❖ 3 John 2

Before you can effectively honor the leader over you, you must properly steward the leader within you. Many leaders spend their lives caring for others while neglecting themselves. God has called us to serve others, but He has also called us to faithfully steward our own spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being.

A leader who neglects himself eventually weakens his ability to serve others.

The greatest leadership assignment you will ever have is the stewardship of the person God called you to be.

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### A. Spiritually: Honor Your Walk with God

You cannot lead others where you have not gone yourself.

- ❖ Work on your own salvation. Philippians 2:12; 2 Corinthians 13:5
- ❖ Maintain personal devotion. Psalm 1:2-3; Joshua 1:8
- ❖ Develop a consistent prayer life. Luke 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- ❖ Study the Word for personal growth, not just for teaching. 2 Timothy 2:15; Ezra 7:10
- ❖ Lead by example before leading by instruction. 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 4:12
- ❖ Stay connected to God beyond ministry responsibilities. John 15:4-5; Acts 6:4

A spiritually healthy leader ministers from overflow rather than emptiness.

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### B. Emotionally: Honor Your Heart and Mind

Many ministry failures begin long before they become visible. They begin in the heart.

- ❖ Know yourself. Psalm 139:23-24; Lamentations 3:40
- ❖ Be honest about your motives. Proverbs 16:2; Jeremiah 17:9
- ❖ Check your desire to run everything. Exodus 18:17-23; James 3:16
- ❖ Learn to receive correction. Proverbs 9:8-9; Proverbs 12:1
- ❖ Guard against jealousy, comparison, and competition. Galatians 5:26; James 3:14-16
- ❖ Deal with hurt before hurt begins leading you. Hebrews 12:15; Ephesians 4:31-32
- ❖ Do not seek significance through titles, positions, or recognition. Matthew 23:11-12; Philippians 2:3-4
- ❖ Guard your heart because your leadership flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

**Questions Every Leader Should Ask:**

- ❖ Do I want to serve or control?
- ❖ Am I building God's Kingdom or my reputation?
- ❖ Do I want responsibility or recognition?
- ❖ Am I offended because I was wronged or because I was overlooked?

An emotionally healthy leader can celebrate others, receive correction, and serve without needing constant recognition.

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**C. Physically: Honor the Body God Gave You**

The body is a gift from God and a tool for ministry.

**Teaching Emphasis:**

- ❖ Get proper rest. Mark 6:31; Psalm 127:2
- ❖ Exercise wisdom regarding your health. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 3 John 2
- ❖ Take vacations and time away. Mark 6:31; Ecclesiastes 3:1
- ❖ Spend time with family. 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Joshua 24:15
- ❖ Learn your limitations. Psalm 103:14; 2 Corinthians 12:9
- ❖ Understand that rest is not laziness. Exodus 20:8-10; Mark 2:27
- ❖ Recognize that burnout is not a badge of honor. 1 Kings 19:4-8; Galatians 6:9
- ❖ Maintain balance between ministry and personal renewal. Luke 10:38-42; Ecclesiastes 4:6

A rested leader serves with greater clarity, energy, and longevity.

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**What's the Point?**

When we honor the leader in us:

- ❖ Our spiritual life remains strong. John 15:5
- ❖ Our emotions remain healthy. Proverbs 4:23
- ❖ Our bodies remain available for service. Romans 12:1
- ❖ Our witness remains credible. Matthew 5:16
- ❖ Our leadership remains effective. 2 Timothy 4:7
- ❖ We are less likely to burn out, give up, or become discouraged. Galatians 6:9; Isaiah 40:31
- ❖ We are better equipped to serve those God has entrusted to our care. 1 Peter 5:2-3
- ❖ We position ourselves for long-term faithfulness and effectiveness. Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:7
- ❖ We lead from overflow instead of exhaustion. John 7:38; Acts 6:4
- ❖ We become examples worth following. 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 11:1

