

## Introduction:

*Malachi 1.6-14* People in our culture are increasingly suffering from HRDD (honor & respect deficit disorder). We are not the only ones to recognize this, consider the following: "I jumped at the chance to write about Deborah Norville's new book, *The Power of Respect--Benefit from the Most forgotten Element of Success*. I wanted validation of my belief that there's been decline of respect in modern life. Boy, did I go to the right place. A survey Norville cites shows nearly 80 percent of Americans agreeing that 'a lack of respect and courtesy is a serious national problem.' Eight out of 10 Americans don't agree on much, so this must be serious. Of course, 2009 has been a banner year for disrespectful behavior -- what with Kanye West refusing to let Taylor Swift accept her own award at the MTV Video Music Awards, Serena Williams threatening to shove a ball down a line judge's throat, and of course, Joe Wilson screaming 'You lie!' in the middle of the president's speech" (Raina Kelley, Newsweek.com, October 28,2009).

What is affecting our culture is definitely affecting the church. We need to stress what the Bible says about honor and respect.

## I) Defining What Honor & Respect Are and Are Not

### A) Honor

1. The English noun "honor" means, "high respect; esteem;" the verb, "regard with great respect" New Oxford American Dictionary.
2. In the Greek, "honor basically means to attach high value, worth, or importance to a person or thing" (Smalley). "When we honor particular people we're saying in effect that who they are and what

they say carried great weight with us. They're extremely valuable in our eyes. Just the opposite is true when we dishonor them. In effect, by our verbal or non-verbal statements we're saying that their words or actions make them of little value or 'light weights' in our eyes" (Smalley). Dishonor means to lack value.

## **B) Respect**

1. The English noun "respect" means, "a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by the abilities, qualities, or achievements;" the verb, "admire (someone or something) deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements .. to respect is to have a deferential regard for someone or something because of its worth or value" (New Oxford American Dictionary).
2. Synonyms for honor and respect include, esteem, regard, high opinion, admiration, reverence, deference; among verbs -- esteem, admire, defer to, look up to, appreciate, value, cherish, adore, reverence, revere, venerate, worship, put on a pedestal, think highly of, hold in high regard, hold in high esteem.
3. Opposite of honor and respect includes; dishonor, disrespect, contempt, despise, scorn, disregard, disobey.

## **C) Honor and respect must be felt within and demonstrated by our actions**

1. Israel honored God with their lips but disrespected Him by their actions, *Isaiah 29.13*.

2. A man is not just to say he values his wife but is to be "giving honor to the wife" *1 Peter 3.7*.
3. We see both implied in *Acts 28.10a*. These are independent responsibilities.
4. We can feel honor and respect and not act in honoring and respectful ways. Some people hide their admiration and respect for others.
5. One can act in honoring and respectful ways and not feel honor and respect, *1 Peter 2.18*.
6. We must develop the feeling of honor and respect so we act more respectfully, and we must act respectfully so we grow the feelings of honor and respect. Ex. fix up a car to sell and then decide to keep it.

## **II) What Does God Not Want Us To Honor & Respect?**

### **A) The things the world honors and respects, *Luke 16.15***

1. Human beings, humanism seeks to make man his own god, *Isaiah 2.22*.
2. Fame, *Leviticus 19.15*
3. Money, *Luke 16.14-15*
4. Power, *2 Kings 5.1*
5. Outward appearance, *1 Peter 3.3-4*
6. Sex, *1 Thess. 4.3-5*
7. Athletic ability, *1 Corinthians 9.25*

### **B) It is wrong to honor and value these things at all?**

1. No, but it is wrong to honor them as the world does, *Colossians 3.5-6*
2. Becomes a form of idolatry and does not honor God
  - a. Does not give credit where credit is due, *1 Chronicles 29.12*
  - b. It is worthless, deceptive, *Psalms 4.2*
  - c. It is unfulfilling, even hurtful, *Proverbs 26.8*
  - d. It cuts us off from God, *Psalms 66.18*
  - e. We influence others to do the same, *Esther, 1.17-20*
3. Do we honor and respect the above things for the wrong reasons? If so we need to change our way of thinking.

### **III) What Does God Want Us To Honor & Respect?**

#### **A) Him, His Son, and The Holy Spirit, *Malachi 1.6a; Revelation 5.13***

1. We are here this morning but why?
2. Are we doing so for the right reasons?
  - a. God is our maker, *Revelation 4.11*
  - b. God is so good to us, *Revelation 5.12*
  - c. To be honored by God, *Malachi 3.16-17*
  - d. To be blessed by God, *Proverbs 3.9-10* (How many times do we dishonor God by missing services, not giving, etc.)

- e. So we don't get what we deserve, *Leviticus 10.1-3*
- f. So we don't hurt the people we say we love, *Malachi 2.2-8*
- g. So we will treat people the way we ought to treat them, *Leviticus 25.35-43*.

**B) Other people, *1 Peter 2.17a***

- 1. People have eternal souls that of immense value, *Matthew 16.26*. This means everyone, Illus. Last question on a college exam: "What is the name of the guy who cleans this building?"
- 2. People need and respond positively to honor and respect. Johnny Lingo illustration, *1 Peter 3.1-2, 15*.
- 3. Our soul depends on it, *1 Peter 3.7*
- 4. Our happiness depends on it, *Proverbs 14.21; Acts 20.35*
- 5. Honorable and respectable people will honor and respect us if we honor and respect them, *Proverbs 15.32*
- 6. To be peacemakers, *Proverbs 22.10*

**C) Even animals are to be valued and respected, *Proverbs 12.10***

**Conclusion:**

God is to be praised, valued, respected. We are to respect others because of our respect for God.