

go elsewhere. Other examples of dishonor are eye-rolling, delayed obedience, ignoring, talking back, or smarting off. These are actions that must be lovingly rebuked and corrected before they become habits!

Again, parenting is the most important job in the world. Our legacy of faith is carried on when we honor God by training our children to honor us! The truth is, when we sow honor into the hearts of our children we will reap an adult Christian man or woman who loves and honors his/her God with the whole heart! May honor **not** be a thing of the past!

Think, July 2012. www.focuspress.org.

Church Work Does Not Help People Grow Spiritually

A church called Willow Creek (well-known for its seeker-sensitive approach to bring in people) had a look at what they were doing. Through a scientific survey they wanted to see if their church was really helping people grow.

We discovered that high levels of church activity *did not* predict increasing love for God or increasing love for other people....

Everywhere we turned the data revealed the same truth: spending time in the Bible is hands down the highest impact personal spiritual practice. More specifically, "I reflect on the meaning of Scripture in my life" is the spiritual practice that is most predictive of growth.... Reflecting on Scripture implies a contemplative process, one of thoughtful and careful deliberation. This practice of "reflecting on the meaning of Scripture in my life" is about using God's Word as a mirror that reflects back the truth of Scripture on the actions, decisions, and defense of one's daily life. This is not about skimming through a Bible passage or devotional in a mechanical way.

Greg Hawkins and Cally Parkinson. *Reveal: Where Are You?* (South Barrington, IL: Willow, 2006), p. 35-36.
Follow Me: What's Next for You? (South Barrington, IL: Willow, 2007), p. 114.

Notice: Until further notice, we will keep the prayer list on a separate insert to the bulletin.

Back issues of this publication are posted at
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

14 October 2012

Sermon Topics:

AM: The Hidden Treasure and The Hidden Pearl

Matt 13:44-46

PM: Oppression, Toil, Friendlessness

Eccl 4:1-12

Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Honor: A Thing of the Past?

Steve Minor

Rearing children who honor their parents is held in high regard to God! Honor is a major theme in the Bible. God takes it very seriously and so should we as parents and grandparents. God knows that the way children honor or dishonor their parents is how they will honor or dishonor Him. We **must** earnestly consider the question, "Do my children really honor me as their parent?" We are God's representatives who train, disciple, and instruct our children in the ways of God and His law. Since that is the case, parenting is the most important job in the world!

It's easy to become lazy, apathetic, and dull to God's will for rearing children of honor in a world of distractions, busyness, divorce, and cultural confusion. All of these add to the

complacency of fathers and mothers who have virtually given up on trying to train their children to have hearts of honor. For example, when a husband and wife call it quits in their marriage, there will, more likely than not, be a selfish father who is instructing the child to respect him and despise his mother (and vice versa). Furthermore, if both Mom and Dad are working long hours outside the home, it becomes terribly difficult to spend healthy time with the children to help them apply honor in their lives. Meanwhile, the culture of the world is so confused on what our parenting role should be, they just let the child behave however they want to and give them [*sic*] what they [*sic*] want.

- God commanded the Israelites to honor their parents in the 10 Commandments: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12[, ESV]).
- He commanded compelling consequences for a child who was not honoring to his parents: “For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him” (Leviticus 20:9). “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders of the city at the gate of the place where he lives, and they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘this our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear” (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
- God blesses the family when there is a godly woman who is honored by her children: “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs 31:28-31).

- God relates the honor of children to parents to the honor (or dishonor) that we show Him: “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My fear’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘to you, O priests, who despise My name?’ But you say, ‘how have we despised Your name?’” (Malachi 1:6).

So then, what can we do about training our children to honor God by honoring us as parents? The Bible teaches us to instill within our children at least three actions that will bring about honor.

First, we are to train them to *listen!* Solomon teaches us this truth repeatedly in the book of Proverbs [(e.g., 2:1; 4:1, 20; 5:1, 7; 8:32-33; 23:22)].

Our communication with our children must be purposeful, clear and concise. We must train them to give us undivided attention! If we are going to teach them to listen, we must have God’s Word and will in our hearts to diligently instruct them.

Second, we are to train them to *obey our words!* The Bible makes it clear that obedience is imperative on the part of our children. It must be ingrained from the very beginning [(Proverbs 3:1, 20; 6:1-3, 20; 7:1-3)].

Third, we are to train our children to resist the *disrespectful attitude!*

- “The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures” (Proverbs 30:17).
- “If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness” (Proverbs 20:20).

There is a real temptation for our children to let the dishonoring attitude of others rub off. We must catch it early and correct it consistently. Examples of dishonoring attitudes are when a child interrupts your conversation with your spouse or while you are talking with another in the foyer at church. It is disrespectful when your 16-year-old child stomps off because he must do his chores or homework before he gets to