

Introduction:

We will be looking at Four Pillars of Grace – attitudes that position us to receive God’s unearned favour. Today is “Honour” – valuing, respecting, and esteeming others because of God, not human merit. Dishonour closes the channel of grace; honour opens it.

Point 1: All People are Valuable

- **Created in God’s image** – Every human carries His fingerprints and characteristics. (Genesis 1:27)
- **God’s intentional design** – He imagines and plans every life (Psalm 139).
- **Value is not based on behaviour** – Even those who reject God remain valuable.
- **Gospel scope** – John 3:16 shows God’s love is for “whoever” will believe.
- Jesus’ radical command: love enemies, pray for persecutors, turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:44).

Point 2: Honouring Authority

- **Parents** – Ephesians 6:1–4: First command with promise; brings well-being (“shalom”) and long life.
 - Honour the role, not necessarily the perfection of the parent.
 - “Shalom” – peace, wholeness, and rightness flows from this honour.
 - Parents must also honour children, avoiding provocation (Ephesians 6:4).
- **Government** – Romans 13:1–4: All authority is instituted by God; honour the structure even if leaders are flawed.
 - Honour the institution of authority, even if leaders are imperfect (e.g., Nero’s reign).
 - Look beyond the person to God’s authority structure.
 - Blessing flows when we submit in attitude and speech (verse 4 - “He is God’s servant **for your good**”).

Point 3: Honouring Gifts and Callings

- **Receiving God’s messengers** – Matthew 10:40–42: Receiving a prophet or righteous person brings their reward.
 - Recognising and valuing another’s gift opens a channel of grace.
- **Psalms 133** – Unity releases blessing, flowing from the head to the body.
- **Honouring the weak** – Even small acts (“cup of cold water”) to “little ones” are honoured by God.

Point 4: Honouring All People

- **Scriptural command** – 1 Peter 2:17: “Honour all people” – no exceptions.
- **Avoid reviling** – Titus 3:2: Speak evil of no one.
- **Jesus in Nazareth** – Mark 6:1–6: Lack of honour limited His mighty works.
 - Familiarity and offence can block receiving from God.
 - Prejudices about gender, race, class, or background close the door to grace.

Point 5: The Dangers of Dishonour

- **Reviling** – 1 Corinthians 6:10-12 - Reviling is a serious sin.
 - Speaking against people's character is rooted in pride and judgementalism.
- **Pride blocks grace** – James 4:6: God opposes the proud but gives (more) grace to the humble.
- **Honour without idolatry** – Positions differ, but value is equal.
 - Analogy: football team positions – different roles, same worth (Matthew 23:8–12).

Point 6: Honour in the Family, Church, and Society

- **God's societal structures** – Family, local church, nation.
- **Church** – Mutual respect, recognition of gifts, avoiding hierarchy of value.
- **Family** – Parents honour each other; children honour parents.
 - No shaming or belittling; speak words of blessing and value.
 - Authority exercised with nurture, training, and love (Ephesians 6:4).
- **Consequences for dishonour** – Loving discipline reinforces honour without devaluing the person.
- **Blessing flows** – Psalm 133: Unity brings life and blessing to the whole body / family.

Conclusion & Life Applications

- **Repentance** – Ask God to forgive dishonour towards others.
- **Practical changes:**
 - Speak well of others; avoid reviling.
 - Honour roles (parent, leader, employer) as unto the Lord, even if the person is flawed.
 - Recognise and affirm God-given gifts in others.
 - Treat all people—high or low—with dignity and respect.
 - Stand for God's truth while disagreeing respectfully.
- **Honouring God first** – Acts 5:29 principle: Obey God over man when commands conflict, but maintain respect.
- **Final truth** – Honour releases grace into our lives and relationships.

Scriptures Used in this talk:

Genesis 1:26 - people are made in God's image and so are worthy of respect, dignity and value.

Psalm 139:13-16 - God planned and made every person. There are no bad people and no "mistakes".

Psalm 8:4-6 NKJV - "4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?
5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,"

John 3:16 NKJV - "16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Matthew 5:44 NKJV - "44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"

1 Corinthians 4:12 NKJV - "12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;"

Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJV - "1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and

you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

2 Timothy 3:2 - a description of the "last days" - "men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy,"

1 Peter 3:1, 7 NKJV - "1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ... 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."

Romans 13:1, 4 NIV - "1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ... 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good..."

Matthew 10:40-42 NKJV - "40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.""

1 Peter 2:17 NKJV - "17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."

Titus 3:2 NKJV - "2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."

Mark 6:1-6 NKJV - "1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching."

Matthew 20:30 - those who were healed honoured Jesus

1 Corinthians 6:9-11- revilers will not inherit the kingdom of God

James 4:6 ESV - "6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""

Matthew 23:8-12 NKJV - "8 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 14:8 NKJV - "8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him;"

1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV - "15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Psalms 133:1-3 NKJV - "1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--Life forevermore."