

# Building Christian Character

✦ Compliance with authority

✦ ~~Honesty~~ -----

✦ Forgiveness

✦ Work

✦ Courage

✦ Courage among peers

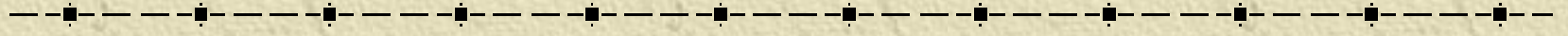
✦ Courage in face of temptation

✦ Discretion

✦ Discernment

✦ Slow to Anger

# Building Christian Character (cont.)



✦ Self control

✦ Honor

# Compliance with Authority

## ✦ Many have authority over us

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- ◆ Parents
- ◆ Elders
- ◆ Supervisors
- ◆ Civil laws
- ◆ School officials
- ◆ Code officials

## ✦ Compliant

- ◆ Willing to mold ourselves
- ◆ Obedient, subject

# Compliance With Governing Authorities

- ✦ ROM 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. 5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

# Compliance With Civil Authorities

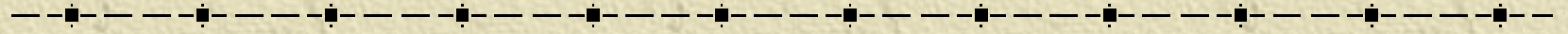
✦ TIT 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

✦ PRO 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

✦ While maintaining compliance with the supreme authority

◆ ACT 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men.

# Compliance with Civil Authorities



✦ 1PE 2:13 ¶ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. 17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

# Compliance with Supervisors

✦ 1PE 2:18 ¶ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

# Compliance in Marriage

✦ 1PE 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be ~~submissive to your own husbands so that even if~~ any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. 3 And let not your adornment be merely external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

✦ In turn, husbands must comply with the needs of their wife,

- ✦ EPH 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;



# Compliance with Parents

✦ EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

✦ Why?

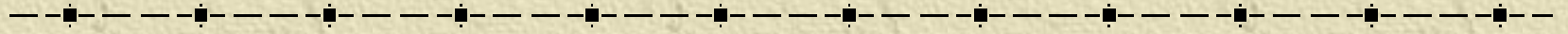
- ✦ Vs.3 – So that it may be well with you and you live long....
- ✦ Parents teach the habits, perspectives, knowledge etc. to equip their children to survive
  - There are reasons responsible parents don't frequent bars, pool halls, casinos etc.
- ✦ Parents give out privileges and responsibilities as their children demonstrate competency with lesser privileges.
  - LUK 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

# Compliant Like Our Lord

✦ 1PE 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

✦ Being compliant in order to save Us.

# Compliance Above All with God's Wishes



## ✠ References:

- ✠ PRO 15:33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.



# Honesty

## ✦ God's perspective

✦ PRO 12:19 Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.

- God will bring an end to the tongue that utters lies

✦ PRO 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

# Honesty

✦ A deceitful tongue reveals the deceitful heart.

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✦ MAT 12:34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 "The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil. 36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

# Honesty

## ✦ References to Christian Character

- ◆ EPH 4:25 ¶ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.
- ◆ PHI 4:8 ¶ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

# Honesty

## ✦ Why honesty is of great importance

◆ It directly impacts our personal reputation, our  
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credibility

- If we are to be “a light” unto the world, that light must be true, not darkness of falsehood.
- People notice acts of integrity
  - ◆ PSA 15:4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;
- They even more note dishonesty
  - ◆ How many acts of honesty does it take to overcome a lie?



# Honesty

## ✦ Why honesty is of great importance

✦ Honesty is a prerequisite for either leadership or service in God's church

- ◆ 1TI 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

# Honesty

## ✦ Importance of Follow Through

- ✦ MAT 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment."
- ✦ Jesus confirmed the importance of doing what we say we're going to do
  - Being a person of our word
  - It is wise to be careful when making commitments
  - Jesus said, "Let your Yes be Yes and your No be No"
    - ◆ True to our word, even if we didn't take an oath

# Honesty

## ✦ Importance of Follow Through

- ✦ If we say we're going to do something, and don't intend to, we are in fact, lying.

- PRO 6:16 ¶ There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19 A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

- ✦ Even if we intend to do as we said,
  - We aren't valuing, honoring our commitment
  - Others recognize this lack of honor

# Honesty

✦ Honesty isn't always easy

- ◆ That's why it's worth so much!

✦ Examples:

- ◆ Whether working with children or viewing *The Apprentice*, no one wants to own up to their responsibility when things go wrong.
  - Whether the balls aren't put away, or the project goes in the wrong direction.
- ◆ Plagiarizing the work of others
- ◆ Not reporting income on tax returns or classifying expenses as deductions when they don't really fit the definition
- ◆ Keeping change, when it's in excess of what was due

# Honesty

## ✦ Honesty has it's rewards

- ◆ Advantages of an honorable reputation

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- ◆ The pleasure of the Lord, even when no one else knows of our honesty and what sacrifices may have been made.
- ◆ A clean conscience
  - 1TI 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.
  - Just as the cost of dishonesty is an injured conscience
    - ◆ 1TI 4:2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
- ◆ Strength to overcome the next test of honesty

# Honesty

## ✠ Biblical Examples

✠ This disgraced, even put to death for their deceit,

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Ananias & Sapphira

# Honesty

## ✦ Benefits of honesty

### ✦ Ability to serve as an example to others

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- 1TI 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
- MAT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

# Honesty

## ✦ Benefits of honesty

✦ Ability to positively influence those outside the faith

- 1TH 4:12 so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.
- Behaving properly requires honesty
- Consider the harm that comes if we haven't conducted ourselves in honor.



# Forgiveness

- ✦ Repentance and forgiveness are close coupled
- ✦ Forgiveness of others is a condition of God's forgiveness
  - ◆ MAT 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
  - ◆ MAT 6:14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
  - ◆ The willingness of Jesus to forgive and sacrifice His life for we who aren't deserving, is the greatest example of forgiveness.

# Forgiveness

✦ Jesus told us that we're to forgive, even  
countless times

- ◆ LUK 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

✦ Forgive because you want to be forgiven

- ◆ MAT 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

# Forgiveness

- ✦ Not taking into account a wrong suffered
  - ✦ 1CO 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,
  - ✦ Pre-empt the need for forgiveness by not accounting wrong.
  - ✦ On the other end, forgiveness means that you don't harbor bitterness

# Forgiveness

## ✦ Being reconciled with your brother,

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- ✦ Realizing what a short stretch that is compared to what it took to reconcile us to God.
- ✦ MAT 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

# God's Forgiveness

## ✦ Washing away our sins

- ✦ ACT 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- ✦ JER 31:34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
  - Even remembering our sins no more.
- ✦ Predicated upon confession of our sins
  - 1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Asking For Forgiveness

✦ Asking for forgiveness is more than just saying “I’m sorry”

- ✦ 2CO 7:9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- ✦ Repentance is a change of heart, of mind, and demands a change of habit etc.
  - MAT 3:8 "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;

# Examples of Forgiveness

✦ Esau forgave Jacob for stealing his blessing,  
Gen.33

✦ Joseph forgave His brothers for having sold Him into slavery,

- ✦ GEN 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

✦ David forgave his son Absalom for his rebellion

- ✦ 2SA 18:33 And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

# Examples of Forgiveness

✦ Stephen forgave those stoning him

- ✦ ACT 7:60 And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep.

✦ Paul forgave those who forsook him at his trials

- ✦ 2TI 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

✦ Jesus forgave those who were crucifying him

- ✦ LUK 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.



# One Aspect of Forgiveness is to Forget Our Own Past

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- ✦ We all make mistakes, even sin
- ✦ Part of faith in God, is realizing that we have been forgiven
  - ◆ Example of David's prayer after his sin with Bathsheba, Ps.51
  - ◆ Peter was able to move on, even after his denial of the Lord, Lk.22:54-62
    - Turning around as seen in Acts 2
- ✦ Paul moved on to give his full attention to serving the Lord, even after being a party to killing Stephen and other Christians

# One Aspect of Forgiveness is to Forget Our Own Past

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- ✦ Paul moved on to give his full attention to serving the Lord, even after being a party to killing Stephen and other Christians

# Work

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## ✦ Introduction

- ✦ Work is something God commands us to do.
- ✦ God requires us not only to be engaged in spiritual work, but also work related to physical needs.

## ✦ God knows what is best for us.

- ✦ Here too, work is actually a “hidden treasure”.

# Work

✦ There has never been a time when people didn't need to work.

✦ Even before the first sin

- GEN 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

✦ And of course, after man had sinned.

- GEN 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return. "
- GEN 4:2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

# Work

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✦ Many reasons God wants us to learn to be good workers.

- ◆ Work helps us feel needed.
  - For example, jobs around the house are important to the family.
- ◆ Jesus was a good worker
- ◆ Paul was a good worker
- ◆ A good job is a source of satisfaction, something to be proud of.
- ◆ Work keeps us from poverty
- ◆ Work glorifies God

# Work

✦ Jesus learned to be a worker.

◆ Learning a trade.

• MAR 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

◆ Learned the work of His Father

• LUK 2:49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

✦ Later, Jesus said that He'd accomplished the work the Father had given Him.

◆ JOH 17:4 "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.

# Work

✦ Paul was a good worker as well.

✦ Working day and night so as not to be a burden.

- 2TH 3:8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;
- 2TH 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.
- ✦ Paul told the Thessalonians to “work with your hands”
  - 1TH 4:11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you;

# Work

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## ✦ Work is a source of satisfaction

- ✦ Though not if accompanied with grumbling.
  - How do you react when asked to do something?
  - Will an employer keep you around long, if he hears you grumble?
  - PHI 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;



# Work

## ✦ Work keeps us from poverty

- ✦ PRO 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you become poor; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.
- ✦ PRO 6:6 ¶ Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, 8 Prepares her food in the summer, And gathers her provision in the harvest. 9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"-- 11 And your poverty will come in like a vagabond, And your need like an armed man.

# Work

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✠ The Christian has spiritual work to do.

- ◆ In fact, we show people our faith, by our works.
  - JAM 2:18 But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

# Work

## ✠ Examples of Christian work

- Helping the needy

- ◆ Read Matthew 25:31-46
- ◆ Example of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37

- Teaching others

- ◆ MAT 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

- Christian women

- ◆ TIT 2:5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

# Work

✦ There are many types of spiritual work for the Christian.

- ✦ EPH 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
- ✦ We are accountable to use the talents we've been given.
  - Matthew 25:14-30
- ✦ We must be of a mind to work
  - NEH 4:6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

# Work

## ✠ Conclusion

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- ◆ Our works are to glorify God.
  - MAT 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- ◆ Our good works are a means of thanking God for all the wondrous works that He has done for us.

# Courage

## ✦ Introduction

- ✦ It takes courage to remain faithful to God in an ungodly world.
- ✦ Our courage is tested in many ways.
- ✦ Focus verse
  - PSA 31:24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord.

# Courage

## ✦ Definition

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- ✦ Courage is the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty. – Webster
  - ✦ Being able to do the right thing, even if you're afraid, or being "dared", or if it looks like "no one will ever find out".

# Courage

## ✦ First aspect of courage

### ✦ The courage it takes to overcome your fears

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- Fear of the dark
  - Fear of talking to people
  - Fear of spiders
- ✦ There is nothing wrong with being afraid.
- Fear is an instinct to keep us safe
  - Yet, it must be mastered.
- ✦ Key is in faith, the faith that God is with us.
- PSA 23:4 ¶ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
  - God is more powerful than any of the things we fear.



# Courage

## ✦ Satan wants us to be bound with fear

- ✦ Doubting God's presence and His willingness to aid us.

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- ✦ Yet, God is more powerful than Satan.

- ✦ ROM 8:26 ¶ And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

# Courage

## ✠ Bible examples who overcame their fears

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- ◆ Abraham & Sarah
- ◆ Joshua & Caleb
- ◆ Ruth
- ◆ Esther
- ◆ David
- ◆ Peter
- ◆ Paul

# Courage

✦ Courage of Abraham to leave his home  
and go to a strange country.

- ✦ GEN 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;
- ✦ Consider how apprehensive we'd be to go to a land you've never seen, to interact with people you don't know and may not be able to trust.

# Courage

✠ Courage of Joshua & Caleb to look past the “giants” they’d seen in the land, and maintain their trust in God.

- ◆ In spite of the pressure of the people
  - A definite minority being only two of twelve spies, and only two of perhaps a million people.
- ◆ Read Numbers 13:1-14:30
- ◆ Their faith that God would help them and provide for them, would be sustained through the next 40 years. It would bring them victory and reward in the promised land.

# Courage

✦ Courage of Ruth to leave her people and go to a people who wouldn't care for her.

- ✦ RUT 1:6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.
- ✦ Going to a people of different language and different customs.
- ✦ Her courage was rewarded in coming to the true God.
  - RUT 1:16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

# Courage

✠ Esther risked her life, going into the king to plead for her people.

- ◆ If the king chose not to extend his sceptre, she would have been put to death on the spot.
- ◆ Read Esther 5
- ◆ God was with her, and turned the table in her favor.

# Courage

- ✦ David faced Goliath, with nothing but his trust in God.

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- ✦ 1 Samuel 17

- ✦ David later wrote:

- ✦ PSA 27:1 (A Psalm of David.) The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? 2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident.
- ✦ PSA 118:6 The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

# Courage

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✦ Many other Old Testament people of God, serve as examples of those who overcame with courage, resulting from their faith.

◆ Hebrews 11



# Courage

✠ Consider the courage of Jesus to withstand Satan's temptations and manipulations.

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✠ Matthew 4:1-11

✠ Having overcome, He now gives us aid.

- HEB 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
- HEB 13:6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

# Courage

✠ Peter stood before thousands, to preach  
Jesus (Acts 2),

- ◆ When weeks before, he had caved in and denied the Lord (Luke 22:54-62).

# Courage

✦ Paul persevered, in spite of the things he'd suffered.

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- ✦ Beatings, shipwrecked, stoned, hunger, cold, etc.
  - II Cor. 11:16-32
- ✦ Weakness, insults, distresses and persecutions
  - 2CO 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

# Courage

✠ God is with us and won't allow us to be in a situation, where we can't overcome.

- ◆ 1CO 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

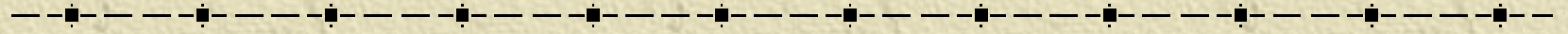
# Courage

## ✠ Courage builds upon courage

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- ◆ That first step is the hardest.
- ◆ There are seemingly greater trials as you go through life, but you gain courage from previous victories of courage.
  - PHI 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

# Courage



✦ God gives us a spirit of courage.

- ◆ 2TI 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

# Courage Among Peers

- ✦ We aren't the first to deal with peer pressure.
- ✦ Others have faced much greater pressure and overcome.
  - ◆ Daniel
  - ◆ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
  - ◆ Noah
  - ◆ Job

# Courage Among Peers

✦ Daniel faced pressure from the greatest ruler of the world.

- ◆ Daniel 6:1-24
- ◆ Facing death in the lion's den, yet refusing to bow down to the king's idol.



# Courage Among Peers

## ✦ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

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- ✦ Daniel's three friends faced certain death in the furnace.
  - Daniel 3:8-30
- ✦ They were the only ones, everyone else was worshipping the idol, but they refused the pressure.

# Courage Among Peers

✦ Noah stood out from the whole world

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- ◆ Genesis 6-9
- ◆ Faced ridicule for some 120 years
- ◆ His position certainly couldn't be "scientific", since there had been no evidence of rain.
- ◆ Noah displayed courage and steadfastness, not giving in to peer pressure.

# Courage Among Peers

✦ Job stood in face of pressure from his wife  
and his friends.

- ◆ He lost his family, his riches and his health.
- ◆ His wife told him to “curse God and die”.
- ◆ His friends assumed that he was being punished for sin.
- ◆ Yet, he didn’t curse God, but held on to his integrity.

# Courage Among Peers

- ✦ It takes courage to stand among our friends, co-workers, classmates etc.
  - ◆ To say “No”, “I’ll pass”, “not this time” (after repenting of a previous error)
  - ◆ To be resolved to do the right thing, **BEFORE** facing the choice and the pressure.

# Courage In Face of Temptation

✦ It takes courage to make the right choice, when we're tempted in a situation when it appears that "no one will ever know".

◆ Such as:

- Taking something from a store
- Taking something from a family member
- Taking something from an acquaintance
- Sneaking into someone else's room
- Taking an extra helping, when others may want more

# Courage In Face of Temptation

✦ There are Bible examples of those who did the right thing, when it didn't look like others would notice:

- ◆ Lot
- ◆ Joseph
- ◆ Job
- ◆ Jesus

# Courage In Face of Temptation

## ✦ Example of Lot, Genesis 19

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- ◆ Lot lived in a very decadent city
- ◆ Yet, he didn't give into the temptation to conform
- ◆ Nor did he look back, when all he had worked for had been destroyed

# Courage In Face of Temptation

## ✦ Example of Joseph, Genesis 39:2-18

◆ It would have been very easy to give into  
Potipher's wife

- The pleasure and excitement of the moment
- The ability to rationalize that his job, his standing depended on it
  - ◆ God gives a way out
    - ◆ 1CO 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
  - ◆ Satan gives us a way to rationalize our sin
    - ◆ “He did it to me”, “It’s for the better”



# Courage In Face of Temptation

## ✦ Example of Job

- ✦ Who would have known, if Job had cursed God, under his breath?
  - He had previously concerned himself with the same thing for his children
    - ◆ JOB 1:5 And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.
- ✦ He knew well that he was accountable for what he does with his eyes and his heart.
  - ◆ JOB 31:1 "I Have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?"

# Courage In Face of Temptation

## ✦ Example of Jesus, Matthew 4

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- ✦ Jesus knows what it is to be tempted
  - HEB 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
- ✦ Jesus countered every one of Satan's points by answering from God's word.
  - Filling our mind & heart with God's word, makes it much easier to resist temptations.

# Courage In Face of Temptation

✦ Remember, the Lord is always with us.

◆ When we bow into the pressure of our peers,  
we are choosing them over the Lord.

◆ Romans 8:31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

✦ We can stand tall and quench the fiery darts of the evil one.

◆ EPH 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

# Courage In Face of Temptation

✦ With God, we can overcome the evil one.

✦ 1JO 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

✦ This does take courage, for many have returned from war, who haven't been able to do this.

# Courage

✠ Reward is promised to those of courage who overcome peer pressure.

- ✠ MAT 5:10 ¶ "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11  
"Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

# Discretion

✦ Discretion is used almost synonymously with a number of terms of similar sentiment, such as:

- ◆ Discernment
- ◆ Prudence
- ◆ Judgment
- ◆ Insight

✦ A word study of “discretion” can be used to further our understanding of each of these terms

- ◆ Perhaps even learn the discrete differences between them

# Discretion

✦ 1CH 22:12 "Only the Lord give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, ~~so that you may keep the law of the Lord your~~ God.

- ◆ Discretion - 7922 sekel - prudence, insight (3)
- ◆ Discreet – careful about what one says or does; prudent exp., keeping silent or preserving confidences when necessary (Webster, 3<sup>rd</sup> College Edition)
- ◆ Prudent – 1) capable of exercising sound judgment in practical matters, especially as concerns one's own interests, 2) cautious or discreet in conduct; circumspect; not rash, 3) managing carefully and with economy (Webster, 3<sup>rd</sup> College Edition)
- ◆ Insight – 1) the ability to see and understand clearly the inner nature of things, esp. by intuition, 2) a clear understanding of the inner nature of some specific thing (Webster, 3<sup>rd</sup> College Edition)

# Discretion

✦ 2CH 2:12 Then Hiram continued, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

- ✦ Discretion and understanding were necessary of a king and these building projects
- ✦ Understanding of principles of money, architecture, engineering, labor relations
- ✦ Discretion or prudence in the application and integration of these principles



# Discretion

- ✦ PRO 1:4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,
  - ◆ discretion - 4209 mezimmah - purpose, discretion, device (5)
  - ◆ prudence - 6195 ormah - craftiness, prudence (3)
  - ◆ It's not enough to gain knowledge,
    - One needs purpose and sound judgment to apply that knowledge
    - One may know how to get on a computer and the internet, but it is worthless without the discretion to access these resources wisely

# Discretion

- ✦ PRO 2:11 Discretion will guard you,  
~~Understanding will watch over you,~~
- ◆ understanding - 8394    tebunah - an understanding (37)
- ◆ How will discretion, sound judgment guard you?

# Discretion

✦ PRO 3:21 My son, let them not depart from your sight; ~~Keep sound wisdom and~~ discretion,

- ◆ sound wisdom - 8454 tushiyyah - sound, efficient wisdom, abiding success (7)

✦ PRO 5:2 That you may observe discretion, And your lips may reserve knowledge.

- ◆ observe - 8104 shamar - to keep, watch, preserve (30)
- ◆ reserve - 5341 natsar - to watch, guard, keep (1)
  - Keeping, guarding knowledge, rather than blurting out everything one knows

# Discretion

✦ PRO 8:12 ¶ "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.

- ✦ Wisdom, prudence & discretion are slightly different concepts that go hand in hand.
- ✦ The economic side of prudence can be applied to speech
  - I.E. speech should be carefully metered out

# Discretion

✦ PRO 11:22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

- ◆ discretion - 2940 taam - taste, judgment (1)
- ◆ Same can be said of a man
- ◆ Someone who blurts out verbiage without considering their impact
- ◆ People talk of having good taste in food, art, “men”, “women” etc.
  - Also used of something not being in “good taste” that is offensive to others
    - ◆ Such as off colored jokes etc.

# Discretion

✦ PRO 19:11 A man's discretion makes him ~~slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook~~ a transgression.

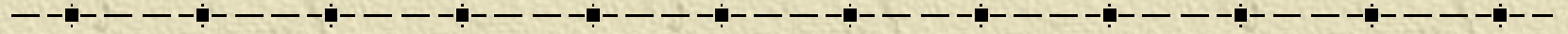
- ◆ discretion - 7922 sekel - prudence, insight (3)
- ◆ Application to anger
  - Realizing that facts must be confirmed and assumptions examined before coming to a conclusion
  - Realizing that anger can be an indulgence, resulting in destruction and sin
  - It is not weakness to suffer a wrong without becoming angry, it is to one's own glory

# Discretion

✦ DAN 2:14 ¶ Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon;

- ◆ discretion - 5843 eta - counsel (1)
- ◆ discernment - 2942 teem - taste, judgment, command (1)
- ◆ Daniel's very life depended on the wisdom & judgment of his reply.
  - A “mouthy” reply would have ended in his death
- ◆ In contrast to these teacher “wanna bes”
  - 1TI 1:7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

# Discretion



- ✦ Discretion is something that must be learned, considered and practice
- ✦ Rewards include the salvation of one's life and even one's soul.



# Discernment

✦ HEB 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- ✦ Discern - 1253g diakrisis - the act of judgment (1)
  - Discern is to see and identify by noting differences
    - ◆ In this case, the difference between good and evil
  - Not the same as deciding what pleases me and what doesn't,
    - ◆ But what's best for all concerned.
- ✦ Practice - 1838g hexis - habit, practice (1)
  - Practicing, exercising to form a habit
  - Like practicing a martial art

# Discernment

✦ PRO 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

✦ What's good and bad can't be based on our own personal thinking.

✦ People have often got it backwards

- ISA 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

✦ It is God who determines what is good and evil

- In fact, He can not stand evil
  - ◆ 1JO 1:5 ¶ And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
  - ◆ God perceives evil as we perceive darkness
  - ◆ I.E. He is the expert

# Discernment

✦ Modernist question the concept of evil

✦ Yet the Bible clearly speaks of good and evil

- Good man, Ps.37:23 – Evil man, Ps.140:1
- Good works, Mt.5:16 – Evil works, Jas.3:16
- Good words, IKings12:7 – Evil speaking, Eph.4:31
- Good path, Prov.2:9 – Evil course, Jer.23:10
- Good advice, Prov.20:18 – Evil counsel, Isa.7:5
- Good name, Prov.22:1 - Evil name, Deut.22:19
- Good fruit, Mt.7:17 – Evil fruit, Mt.7:18
- Good heart, Lk.8:15 – Evil heart, Heb.10:22
- Good morals, ICor.15:33 – Evil dealings, ISam.2:23
- Good report, Phil.4:8 – Evil report, IICor.6:8

# Discernment

## ✦ Examples of failures in discernment

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- ✦ Young prophet deceived by a lie, 1 Kings 13
- ✦ Rich man called a fool, Lk.12:16-21
- ✦ Pharisees who tried to trap Jesus, Mt.22:15-22
- ✦ Martha, Lk.10:38-42
- ✦ The Jews who wanted to stone a woman, Jn.8:3-11
- ✦ The Pharisees in Mt.23

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

## ✦ Young prophet deceived by a lie, 1 Kings 13

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- ✦ A “man of God”
- ✦ Courageous enough to go into another country to confront Israel with their idolatry
- ✦ Obeyed God’s command not to eat or drink
- ✦ Could not be taken in by flattery
- ✦ Refused an invitation to be the guest of a King
- ✦ Yet, he died because he failed to discern the lie of an old prophet, vs.18

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

## ✦ Rich man called a fool, Lk.12:16-21

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- ✦ Intelligence & skills to farm, to make money
- ✦ Blessed with good harvests
- ✦ Yet couldn't discern material & spiritual values
  - He assumed that he'd live on as he had
  - He assumed that his material wealth was secure
- ✦ God called him a fool
  - He left God out of his life
  - He thought his soul depended on what could be stored in a barn

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

## ✠ Pharisees who tried to trap Jesus, Mt.22:15-22

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- ✦ They couldn't discern the difference between tribute and allegiance
- ✦ Yes, Caesar claimed to be the son of a god
  - They knew the difference between Caesar and the true God
  - But perhaps didn't appreciate that the true God was in control all the time
    - ◆ If they were subjects of Caesar, God had allowed or ordained it
    - ◆ Just as He'd turned the Jews over to the Babylonians
    - ◆ They should have considered that this was God's discipline
  - And yes, God understood if they paid taxes as tribute,
    - ◆ Or out of allegiance

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

## ✦ Martha, Lk.10:38-42

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- ✦ She had two very important options
  - Serve the Lord
  - Stop and listen to the Lord
- ✦ Yet, she didn't have the discernment to select the most important
  - As her sister had done
- ✦ Jesus kindly corrects her
  - Her motives were noble
  - No question about her zeal
  - But she didn't distinguish what was of greatest value



# Biblical Failures In Discernment

✦ The Jews who wanted to stone a woman,

Jn.8:3-11

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- ✦ They used this woman caught in adultery, to try to get Jesus in trouble with either the Jews or the Romans
  - Probably to undermine Jesus and maintain their own position
  - Using a front of piety and justice

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

✠ The Jews who wanted to stone a woman,

Jn.8:3-11

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✠ Failed to discern:

- Who they were dealing with
- What was truly just
  - ◆ To begin with, they didn't bring the man who was involved
  - ◆ Most importantly, they failed to discern the gravity of their own sin
- God's concern for all of them
  - ◆ Jesus showed more concern for her future than her past

# Biblical Failures In Discernment

## ✦ The Pharisees in Matthew 23

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- ✦ Jesus discusses several instances where they were mistaken in their discernment
- ✦ They failed to discern the most important parts of the Law, vs.23
  - Selecting the smaller tithing specifications over judgment, mercy and faith



# Discernment

## ✦ Guideposts to wise discernment

- ✦ Faith, Heb.11:24-25
- ✦ Hope, Heb.11:26
- ✦ Love, Jn.14:23, Jn.12:42-43, IITim.3:4, IIThess.2:10-12
- ✦ Courage, Mt.10:28, Prov.23:23, ISam.15:24
- ✦ Examples of Jesus, Isa.7:15, Heb.4:15
- ✦ Sincerity
- ✦ Caution, ICor.16:13, Prov.22:3
- ✦ Investigation, Prov.13:16, Acts 17:11
- ✦ Principles

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Faith, Heb.11:24-25

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- ✦ HEB 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;
- ✦ Faith was at the root of Moses's ability to discern the better, long term choices of life.
  - A predicament common with American Christians.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Hope, Heb.11:26

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- ✦ HEB 11:26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
- ✦ Moses had an expectation that he'd receive the reward he desired.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

✦ Love, Jn.14:23, Jn.12:42-43, IITim.3:4,  
IIThess.2:10-12

- ✦ JOH 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.
- ✦ JOH 12:42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.
  - These rulers had a love for human prestige and consequently failed to discern the Holy One

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Love (cont.)

✦ 2TI 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;

- Love of pleasures, is a stumbling block that keeps many from discerning what is really in their best interest.

✦ 2TH 2:10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

- Failing to love the truth, causes many to fail discern the truth



# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

✦ Courage, Mt.10:28, Prov.23:23, ISam.15:24

~~✦ MAT 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.~~

- Discerning the real power in the universe helps us face difficulties with courage.
- ✦ PRO 23:23 Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.
  - Discerning the truth gives us a foundation on which to base our courage

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

✦ Courage, Mt.10:28, Prov.23:23, ISam.15:24

~~1SA 15:24 ¶ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.~~

- ✦ Fear gets in the way of discerning the best choices
  - Fear of financial loss
  - Fear of public favor loss
  - Fear of ridicule
  - Fear of losing one's life
- ✦ Just as Saul feared the people and made a blundering decision.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Examples of Jesus, Isa.7:15, Heb.4:15

✦ ISA 7:15 "He will eat curds and honey at the time  
He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good.

- It was prophesied that the Christ would discern between good and evil.
- ✦ HEB 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
  - Jesus's discernment was flawless, in spite of pressure from:
    - ◆ Satan
    - ◆ Friends
    - ◆ Enemies

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Sincerity

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- ✦ Uncompromising love, free of hypocrisy
- ✦ Free of motivation for revenge, etc.
- ✦ Failing to discern the pitfalls of deceit clouds our ability to discern the pitfalls of these other sins.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Caution, ICor.16:13, Prov.22:3

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- ✦ 1CO 16:13 ¶ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
- ✦ PRO 22:3 The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it.
- ✦ What looks good, may not be so good for us.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Investigation, Prov.13:16, Acts 17:11

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- ✦ PRO 13:16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly.
- ✦ ACT 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.
- ✦ Looking into the facts is necessary for good discernment.

# Guideposts to Wise Discernment

## ✦ Principles

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- ✦ Discerning the difference the principle and the application of that principle.

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *Slow to anger*

- ✦ James 1:19 – “This you know, my beloved brethren. But let every one be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger”
  - 3709 *οργη* – *orge* – *impulse, wrath*
- ✦ JAM 1:20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
- ✦ PRO 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.
  - Often a display of anger is mistaken for strength
- ✦ ECC 7:9 Do not be eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools.



# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *Put aside anger*

- ◆ Col.3:8 – “But now you also, put them all aside, anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”

□ *οργη* – *orge*

- ◆ Eph.4:31 – “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

□ *οργη* – *orge*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ ***Work of the flesh***

✦ Gal.5:19-20 – “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, .....

- ***2372 θυμος thumos (from 2380) – passion, angry tempers, fierce, indignation, outburst of anger, rage.***

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ Why

✦ ***PRO 30:33 For the churning of milk produces butter, And pressing the nose brings forth blood; So the churning of anger produces strife.***

- *Medical indication that anger produces health problems*

✦ ***PRO 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger pacifies contention.***

- *In the long term, anger is not a uniting factor*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ Why

- ✦ ***PRO 14:35 The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely, But his anger is toward him who acts shamefully.***
  - *A display of anger isn't going to win us favor or a promotion*
- ✦ ***PRO 14:29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.***
- ✦ ***Our Lord is slow to anger***
  - ***PSA 145:8 ¶ The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.***
  - ***So should be His disciples***

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *Association with malice*

- ✦ *Malice – 2549 κακία kakia, form 2556, wickedness, evil, malice, trouble*
  - *Rom.1:29, Eph.4:31, Col.3:8, Titus 3:3, IPet.2:1*
  - *Webster – active ill will, desire to harm another or to do mischief, spite, evil intent, state of mind shown by intention to do, or intentional doing of something unlawful.*
- ✦ *Including maligning the motives of others*
  - *Assuming evil motives of others, without being able to know what their motives really are.*
    - ◆ *1CO 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *There is a place for anger*

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### ◆ *Jesus was angry*

- *MAR 3:5 And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*

### ◆ *Jesus spoke of just anger*

- *MAT 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ ***Anger is to be with caution***

- ✦ ***Jesus and Paul cautioned about the use of anger***
  - ***MAT 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.***
  - ***EPH 4:26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,***

# Slow to Anger

✦ ***Angry tempers aren't to be found among  
God's people***

- ✦ ***2CO 12:20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;***



# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *How to gain control over anger*

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- ✦ *PRO 19:11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ *Dealing with anger of others*

### ◆ *Do not associate with such*

◆ Prov.22:24 – “Do not associate with a man given to anger, or go with a hot tempered man”

- 639 – *Heb. aph – a nostril, nose, face, anger, quick tempered.*

### ◆ *Why?*

- *PRO 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.*
- *PRO 19:19 A man of great anger shall bear the penalty, For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.*

# Slow to Anger

## ✦ ***Dealing with the anger of others***

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- ✦ ***Do not associate with them***
  - *Prov.22:24*
- ✦ ***PRO 21:14 A gift in secret subdues anger,  
And a bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.***
- ✦ ***PRO 29:8 Scorners set a city aflame, But  
wise men turn away anger.***
- ✦ ***PRO 15:1 A gentle answer turns away  
wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.***
  - *Takes restraint and humility*

# Self Control

## ✦ Introduction

### ✦ Background:

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- **Theme of II Peter:**
  - ◆ Knowledge as the guard against false teachers.
- **Context in II Peter:**
  - ◆ Way of making salvation sure, 1:3 - 11
    - ◆ God's gifts to man, 1:3 - 4
    - ◆ Man's part in salvation, 1:5 - 11

# Self Control

## ✦ Introduction

### ✦ Text:

- **2PE 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;**
- 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;
- 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

# Self Control

## ✦ Introduction

### ✦ vs. 5-6 Progression of qualities

- Sometimes referred to as “Christian graces”
- Faith -> moral excellence -> knowledge -> self control -> perseverance -> godliness -> brotherly kindness -> love
  - ◆ The first supports the second,
    - ◆ Example:
      - ◆ We don't know what is in our brother's best interest (love) without knowledge,
      - ◆ And we don't act in their best interest, without a reverence for God's values (godliness)
    - ◆ but must not be perfected before going on to the second.
      - ◆ We don't wait until we have all knowledge etc, before practicing love.

# Self Control

## ✦ Vs.5-6

### ✦ Diligence - gr. spouden - earnestness.

- Comes from a verb meaning, to hasten
- Being a Christian is a process,
  - ♦ Not a passive affair
- **Actively working to transform into the new creator, being as Christ like as possible.**
- 2PE 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

# Self Control

## ✦ Definition:

- ✦ Gr. 1466g egkrateia - mastery, self-control (4)
- ✦ Synonyms: temperance, continence
- ✦ Thayer described this term as “the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites”, p.167



# Self Control

## ✦ Usage

- ✦ ACT 24:25 And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you."
- Being confronted with our lack of self control is very uncomfortable.

# Self Control

✦ 1CO 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- ✦ **192g akrasia - want of power (1)**
- ✦ **Self control takes strength**
  - In contrast to our culture which often considers living in excess to be a sign of independence and strength.
- ✦ **Note that God recognizes the limits to our self control and makes provision,**
  - **Not allowing us to be tempted beyond what we can endure, ICor. 10:13**
  - Point, it is not for us to draw our limit and excuse ourselves for failing.

# Self Control

✦ 1CO 7:9 But if they do not have self-control,  
let them marry; for it is better to marry than  
to burn.

- ✦ 1467g egkrateuomai - to exercise self-control  
(2)

# Self Control

✦ 1CO 9:25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

## ◆ Illustration of the athlete

• 1CO 9:24 ¶ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

- ◆ 25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
- ◆ 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;
- ◆ 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

# Self Control

✠ 1CO 9:25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

## ◆ Illustration of the athlete

- In competition, you cannot afford to make any mistakes.
  - ◆ The same is true of us.
    - ◆ Ex. - Saying the one wrong thing can bring disgrace on God, or turn an inquiring heart away.
    - ◆ JAM 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.
    - ◆ 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

# Self Control

✦ GAL 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

◆ **One of the fruits of the Spirit.**

◆ **Implication is:**

- **As a product of the Spirit, we can get some help with it.**
- **I.E. self control is certainly something to pray about.**

# Self Control

✦ 2Ti 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

◆ 193g akrate\_s - powerless, impotent (1)

◆ The dangerous and destructive consequences of not developing self control.

- Friendships and families destroyed.
- Disgrace brought upon God.

# Self Control

## ✦ Application

### ◆ Self-control is like meekness

- 
- **Power under control**
  - **Except the issue seems to partly be who is in control**
    - ◆ Self or someone else, such as God, the horse trainer, or ourselves
    - ◆ As Christians, our self has been done away with and replaced with God's values
      - ◆ Therefore, self control here is to be God control.
  - **The other issue is what is under control**
    - ◆ Our body
      - ◆ 1Cor. 9:27
    - ◆ Our mind
      - ◆ 2CO 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,



# Self Control

## ✦ Applications

### ✦ Money

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- 1TI 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

### ✦ Possessions

- LUK 12:15 And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

### ✦ Lasciviousness

- 1Cor. 7:5

# Self Control

## ✦ Applications

### ◆ Food

- **Gluttony and heavy drinking**
- **PRO 23:21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.**

### ◆ Striving for recognition

- **Jesus's parable of sitting yourself towards the lower end of the table.**
  - ◆ **LUK 14:7 ¶ And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table; saying to them,**
  - ◆ **10 "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you.**

### ◆ Gossip and other matters of the tongue

# Self Control

## ✦ Application

### ✦ Context of 1Pet. 2

- **One must acquire the knowledge of what is right and wrong before making self control beneficial.**
- **In turn, knowledge itself must be kept under control.**
  - ◆ 1CO 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

# Self Control

## ✦ Application

### ✦ Self denial is a form of self control

- **A requirement of serving Christ.**

- ◆ **Need for a reality check on our ambitions.**
- ◆ **MAT 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**
- ◆ **ROM 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.**
- ◆ **2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**
  - ◆ **It is a transformation we undertake to renew our mind**
  - ◆ Putting off the old values
  - ◆ Imposing new values
  - ◆ A conscious decision requiring, effort

# Self Control

## ✦ Application

✦ Self control is a responsibility necessary to glorify God.

- 1CO 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

# Self Control

## ✦ Examples

### ✦ Those **with:**

- **Joseph in the incident with Potipher's wife**
  - ♦ In that incident, Joseph had already made up his mind.
  - ♦ He knew what was right and wrong and had determined to live honorably,
    - ♦ **Regardless of what it took.**
  - ♦ Self control may mean knowing your limitations and physically removing yourself from a situation rather than risk failure.

# Self Control

## ✦ Examples

### ✦ Those **without**:

- **Esau when he sold his birthright for a bowl of porridge.**
- **Easy to be critical,**
- We too can sell our birthright over what is just as temporary, on the basis of eternity, as a bowl of stew.

# Self Control

## ✦ Summary

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### ◆ Self control requires:

- Diligence to develop
- Strength to exercise
- Humility to correct
- Knowledge to direct



# Honor

## ✦ Introduction

- ✦ *Gary Smalley discussed the place of honor in the family.*
  - *Yet the concept of honor escapes most people.*
- ✦ *Everyone from gangs to the Samarai to the Klingons have their own codes of misguided honor.*
  - *Often confusing honor with pride*
  - *Worthwhile to develop this concept in the life of a Christian.*
  - *Learning what Gods has said about honor.*

# Honor

✦ The Bible actually has much to say about:

- 
- ✦ What a Christian should honor
  - ✦ How one needs to go about being honored.

✦ Definitions

- ✦ Definition of honor

- timao (Gr. 5091 - verb) to honor, to fix the value (Vine & NAS Exhaustive Concordance)
- time (Gr. 5092 - noun) a valuing, a price (Vine & NAS Exhaustive Concordance)
- Webster - a showing of usually merited respect
  - ◆ Many English definitions, but the one closest to the usage of "timao"
  - ◆ Respect is to esteem, to consider worthy of high regard.

# Honor

## ✦ Introduction

- 
- ✦ **All people seek to be valued.**
    - We have a need to be highly esteemed by others before we can hold ourselves in high esteem.
    - Children of broken families often don't feel valued and live their lives fulfilling a vision of low self value.
    - Many people live their lives seeking to be noticed and valued by others.
  - ✦ **This issue of value, honor is highly relevant to our society.**

# Examples of Honor

- ✦ MAT 13:57 And they took offense at Him.  
But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without **honor** except in his home town, and in his {own} household."
  - ◆ **I.E. a prophet is typically valued,**
    - But he is not valued among his own
    - Rather, he is taken for granted.
  - ◆ **Taking something for granted shows the low value we put on it.**
    - Such as with children who have been given much by their parents without having to work for anything.

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ Daniel was highly esteemed by God

- ✦ As related by Gabriel (vs.21)

✦ DAN 9:23 "At the [a]beginning of your supplications the [1]command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are [2b]highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain [c]understanding of the vision.

- 2536b chamudah - desirableness, preciousness (1)

## ✦ Not going to esteemed by God,

- By listening to what men say
- LUK 16:15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

- ✦ Key: Daniel highly valued God

# Examples of Honor

✦ MAT 15:4 "For God said, '\bHonor your father and mother,\'' and, '\He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.\'' 5 "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother, "Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God, " 6 he is not to **honor** his father or his mother. 'And {thus} you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

- ✦ Using the idea of "corban" the Jews had disobeyed God, and dishonored their parents, by not rendering the respect and care due them.
- ✦ They no longer valued their parents.
  - EPH 6:2 \Honor your father and mother\ (which is the first commandment with a promise),
    - ◆ The same command is handed down to the Christian.

# Examples of Honor

- ✦ LUK 14:7 And He {began} speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had ~~been picking out the places of honor~~ {at the table;} saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of **honor**, lest someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both shall come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. 10 "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have **honor** in the sight of all who are at the table with you.

# Examples of Honor

✦ **Jesus recognized that everyone wants to be valued**

◆ **Self-esteem is self-valuing**

✦ **One perspective on this parable is that one who wishes to be valued by others will first recognize the value of others.**

◆ **HEB 5:4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but {receives it} when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.**

◆ **JOH 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.**

• **The key to being honored, valued, is to serve.**



# Examples of Honor

✦ Value placed on Jesus is equivalent to what we may place on the Father . . . . .

- ✦ JOH 5:23 in order that all may **honor** the Son, even as they **honor** the Father. He who does not **honor** the Son does not **honor** the Father who sent Him.
- ✦ **Like the wicked vinedressers, those who don't value God's greatest gift, don't value God.**
  - Mk. 12:1-12
- ✦ JOH 8:49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a **demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.**

# Examples of Honor

- ✦ ROM 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not **honor** Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- ✦ **The gentiles forgot the value of God and the value of listening to his council.**
  - ✦ **This is very true today as well.**
  - ✦ 1TI 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, {be} **honor** and glory forever and ever. Amen.

# Examples of Honor

✦ **Honor, being valued, is a prize along with eternal life, glory and peace.**

- ✦ ROM 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and **honor** and immortality, eternal life;
- ✦ 10 but glory and **honor** and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- ✦ **Value comes thru perseverance.**
  - 1PE 1:7 that the proof of your faith, {being} more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ Christians are to give preference & honor to each other

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- ROM 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in **honor**;
- **As God gave His Son as a price for us, we off all people, should recognize one another's value.**
- **Looking out for one another, as we do parts of our own body**
  - 1CO 12:23 and those {members} of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly {members come to} have more abundant seemliness,
  - 24 whereas our seemly {members} have no need {of it.} But God has {so} composed the body, giving more abundant **honor** to that {member} which lacked,

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ Honor, as applied to the governing authorities

- ✦ ROM 13:7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax {is due;} custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; **honor** to whom **honor**.
- ✦ **The Christian owes a certain amount of respect to even a wicked government,**
  - recognizing the value received even from that government.

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ Relationship between value (honor) and special purpose (sanctification).

- 
- ✦ 1TH 4:4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and **honor**,
  - ✦ **Our "vessel" here could be:**
    - Our mate, whom we are to value highly.
    - Or our own body, which is the temple of God,
      - ✦ 1CO 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
  - ✦ HEB 13:4 {Let} marriage {be held} in honor among all, and let the {marriage} bed {be} undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
    - **Recognizing the value, and special purpose, of our marriage relationship.**

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ Husbands are to honor their wives

✦ **1PE 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

- Like cherishing a rare and fragile vase
- ✦ **God places a lot of value on the way we treat and value one another.**
  - Even of greater value than our prayer and worship.

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ 1TI 5:3 Honor widows who are widows indeed;

- ◆ We are to recognize the value of our widows.
- ◆ Tendency to do the opposite,
  - Thinking that they can't go out and teach others
  - Even considered a financial burden on the church.
- ◆ Yet God, says to set their value, highly.
  - We often overlook a simple reason why we don't grow as God's body.
    - ◆ We've set aside and forgotten God's value system.
    - ◆ We don't give for, and serve the weak as God did
      - ◆ And even does today.



# Examples of Honor

## ✦ We prepare ourselves to be an instrument for honor

✦ 2TI 2:20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these {things}, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

- Specifically,

- ♦ 2TI 2:14 ¶ Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,

- Cleansed to be valued and useful.

# Examples of Honor

✦ **Recognize the value of the elder, his time and effort is service to the brethren.**

- ✦ 1TI 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of **double honor**, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

# Examples of Honor

✦ **Recognize and appreciate the value of even our pagan employers.**

- ✦ 1Ti 6:1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all **honor** so that the name of God and {our} doctrine may not be spoken against.

# Examples of Honor

✠ 1PE 2:17 **Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.**

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◆ **To honor, value everyone.**

- **Treating others as we would like to be treated.**
  - ◆ A concept of honor that even has implications for jobs and the environment.
    - ◆ If we honor God, won't we also value his creation, both human and nature?
- **Begins in the home with everyone valuing, prizing everyone else.**
  - ◆ When we say we don't have time for someone or something, are we really saying that it is lesser value to us than what ever we have designated as taking up that time?

# Examples of Honor

## ✦ **The Marines have a slogan, "death before dishonor"**

- ✦ This was first a principle of a Christian.
- ✦ **Jesus accepted death before dishonoring Himself and His Father.**
  - REV 5:12 saying with a loud voice, # "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." #
- ✦ **Revelation gives the case of early Christians who accepted death,**
  - **Before even the seemingly trivial dishonor of paying homage to Caesar as a god, via a mere pinch of salt.**

# Honor

## ✦ Conclusion

✦ Honor is a matter of properly assessing value.

## ✦ Reflections

- What do I really value?
- Do I place the same value, on my family, my brethren, my neighbor as God does?
- Do I show the value I place?
- Have I prepared myself to honor my God?