

THE HONOR SERIES

HONOR THE BIG PICTURE

*Seeing God's Plan
in a World of Pieces*

*Every piece
has a purpose.
Together it reveals
the bigger picture.*

WILLIAM A. LEE

LIVING RIVERS MINISTRY

Honor The Big Picture

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Unless otherwise noted all Scripture is taken from the New King James Version (NKJV). Words underlined and found in brackets [] represent author's emphasis or alternate translations.

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This book is dedicated to:

My Lord Jesus Christ

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Honor The Big Picture

Today we live in a world that seems to be spinning out of control, ravaged with innumerable problems of every sort. Most people alive on the planet today would like to see the world we live in become a better place. Yet it is obvious that the world does not have the answers to all of its problems. Most people can see and define the problems we face in society today yet many have not stopped to consider that they might be personally contributing to the problems. So many people would like to see change but so few are willing to change. So if the world does not have the answers to all its problems, who does?

His name is Jehovah, the Almighty God, and the Creator of heaven and earth. I know many people seem to think that if God has all the answers to this world's problems, then why is this world in such a mess? The truth is that God does have the answers to all of mankind's problems. He has answers for each individual, as well as, the problems that plague the nations and the world as a whole. God has even gone so far as to leave us a manual full of His wisdom and answers. Yet in most cases, men

have just plain rejected His wisdom – not realizing that His wisdom and His ways are the only true answers that will solve the problems confronting the world today.

JOB 21:14-15

14 Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways.

15 Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to [or follow] Him?'

When God established the nation of Israel He taught His people to honor one another. Yet in many societies today there is a great lack of understanding about the concept of *honor* and its significance to a healthy society. It stands to reason that the world would lack understanding in this area, seeing that the world as a whole has rejected the knowledge of God. However, the Church, on the other hand, should grasp the importance of honor and its application to our daily lives. Sadly, the Church's overall understanding is not much better than the world's. The whole idea of *honor*, like *love*, has greatly lost much of its fundamental meaning in many of today's societies as well as much of the church.

I know in my own life, I have not always practiced honor, nor have I always understood what honor was. But as I matured in my walk with the Lord, my desire to honor the Lord grew stronger and stronger. I continually found myself saying, “I just want to honor the Lord.” One day while driving home in my truck the Lord spoke to me and told me to write a book about the subject of honor. I rushed home, still obeying the speed limit, and shared with my wife what the Lord had told me. I was quite surprised that God would tell me to write a book, because I hated writing and hated English classes and was a terrible speller in school. I quickly realized that God has a great sense of humor.

I had received a mandate from the Lord, so I set out to write the book. As I began to study the subject of honor, I came to understand that I had never realized the full scope of all that honoring the Lord truly encompassed. I endeavored to find the fundamental meaning of *honor* from a biblical perspective.

I quickly realized that I had discovered a gold mine of revelation. One of the most interesting things that I initially found was the unique relationship between *honor* and *love*, which I will

share with you shortly. But little did I know how deep this gold mine would go!

Understanding biblical honor starts by discovering how honor relates to all the other attributes of God's character and nature. The Lord gave me an illustration that I believe will help us to understand not only the concepts of honor and love but all the other attributes of God's character and nature as well. What the Lord showed me was this: All of God's character attributes, as defined by the Scriptures are very similar to a large jigsaw puzzle.

The pieces in the puzzle represent each of the character attributes of God. The image that all the pieces form when put together is no doubt the image of Jesus Christ. We can see this written in Hebrews and Colossians.

HEBREWS 1:3

3 who [Jesus] being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...

COLOSSIANS 1:15

15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Even as Jesus is the image on this divine puzzle, God desires that we see ourselves in the reflection of Jesus, transformed by His nature and character into the fullness of His image by the Spirit of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

I cannot speak for you but I can truly testify to the fact that my life has never been the same since the day I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. God has patiently transformed my character over time by His Spirit through the new nature that was imparted to me.

Often our lives are much like a puzzle that starts out as a hodgepodge of pieces completely out of order. Yet given a little time and effort the pieces can be transformed into a beautiful picture. I remember when I was selfish, lustful, rebellious, and addicted to drugs. But over time God transformed me into a humble, gentle, honorable man of God. And He is still putting my life back together one piece at a time and He will continue working in my life until Jesus returns to get me or

I go to meet Him. God can do the same thing in your life. He can transform your life into a beautiful masterpiece. However, God can only transform our lives to the degree that we choose to follow Him and adopt His ways of doing things.

As for the example of the divine puzzle we begin to put it together just like any other puzzle. The most common approach in assembling a jigsaw puzzle is to first find and group together all the corners and edge pieces. After all the edge pieces have been found and grouped together, we can then find all the pieces that look similar and group them together. We find all the groups that relate to this illustration, named in the book of Galatians.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, [and love is] joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [Author's Emphasis]

The fruit of the Spirit is love, which is God's nature, and out of God's love flows joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith and so on. All of God's character attributes flow out of His love. And His love is planted into every believer's

heart at the time of the new birth. However, there are many other character attributes of God, such as *honor*, which do not appear in this list. Yet we know that *honor* is truly as much a character attribute of God as *love*. So why is it not listed here? The answer lies in the fact that it would have been ridiculous for the apostle Paul to list every word that described God's nature in his letter to the Galatians; if he had, the book of Galatians would have been a mile long. So what did he do?

The apostle Paul gave us a general outline of love, which is the fruit of the Spirit. All the other characteristics mentioned in this passage flow out of God's love. For the sake of this teaching think of these characteristics as representing different "groups" of characteristics, which in turn portray groups and sections of pieces found in the divine puzzle.

Every word that describes a character attribute of God's nature revealed to us in the Scriptures will generally fit into at least one of these groups or interlock several of these groups together.

Ultimately, all of these groups interlock together to become one complete image – yet each group still consists of separate pieces – at the same time forming smaller image segments of the greater

puzzle image. This is very similar to our one God expressing Himself in the plural form of three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love [the border pieces], [and love is] joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance [the inside pieces]: against such there is no law. [Author's Emphasis]

The group of *love* represents the edge pieces, which we will call the primary group making up the border of the puzzle. The border of the puzzle surrounds, touches and contains all the other groups of pieces which make up the rest of the puzzle. I call this group, "the primary group" because *love* is the primary focus of God's Word and love is God's nature.

MATTHEW 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him," 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 "This is the first and great commandment.

39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

In the group represented by *love*, we would find puzzle pieces such as: honor, respect, compassion and so on. We would find these attributes in this group because they are basically synonymous with the concept of *love*. The entire group of *love* helps to contribute to the fullness of the puzzle's image of Christ. In the divine puzzle, *love* and *honor* and the rest of the attributes of this group are the border pieces. They are unique above all the other pieces because they set the border of the puzzle's image and they surround, contain and touch all the inner groups and pieces of the puzzle.

In the other groups such as *goodness* we would find puzzle pieces such as: truthfulness, kindness, integrity, uprightness and so on. All the other groups would be defined in a similar manner. We will also see how all of the other groups further define and fill in the group of *love*. Which we are calling the border pieces.

Now in any jigsaw puzzle, similarly colored pieces would be grouped together to form smaller image

segments and then interlocked together to form the complete image of the puzzle. So it would be in our illustration of the divine puzzle. We would interlock similar pieces together forming the different attributes of love as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Then we would interlock similar groups together, such as the groups of *joy* and *peace*, until all the groups and pieces are fitly joined together to give us the fullness of the image of Jesus Christ.

The image on this divine puzzle, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, will never be clearly seen from any person's perspective without all the pieces of the puzzle properly fit together. So it is with our ability to discern the image of Christ – it is in direct relation to the amount of understanding we have about His character and nature.

It also helps to realize that when we come to the Lord we are all broken and flawed by sin. We all have character issues some more than others but in the end God wants to restore all our lives. It is our character that defines us as people and it is our character that influences our actions. So it is understandable that one of the first things that the Lord begins to address in our lives is our character because it is the most important aspect about us.

The Holy Spirit begins this work the day we are born again by planting Himself into our heart like a spiritual seed. His spiritual nature, which is love, contains all the character attributes of Christ. Nevertheless, in order to experience fruitfulness, it will take our cooperation with the Holy Spirit by allowing Him to grow and develop His characteristics in our lives. We can cooperate by spending time with God in prayer and by meditating in God's Word and studying the character and nature of Christ. As we do this, it will ultimately help transform our thinking, which, in turn, will change our actions so that we will no longer be conformed to the character that we developed apart from God.

ROMANS 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Be determined to be all that God wants you to be. Allow the Holy Spirit to develop the character and nature of Christ in your life and begin to get a vision of yourself with a new spiritual image – an image based on the reflection of the character of

Jesus Christ. After all you will never be able to go beyond the vision you have for your life.

ROMANS 8:29

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...

EPHESIANS 4:13

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature [image] of the fullness of Christ;

The more we understand about the different character attributes of Christ and their relationships to one another, the clearer we will see the complete image of the divine puzzle in our lives, which is the fullness of Christ's character and nature.

Throughout this book we will be studying many of these character attributes particularly as they relate to *honor* and *love*. For now, keep the whole concept of the divine puzzle in the back of your mind as we continue defining *honor* and *love*.

Defining Honor and Love

Now we have spent some time discussing and defining love but now I want us to take a closer look at honor and then we will compare the two.

When we talk about *honor* I think it is safe to say that most people, who think they understand it, probably do not fully understand it from God's perspective, or as seen in light of the image of the entire divine puzzle. However, my prayer is that before you finish reading this book, you will truly have a new perspective of honor and love as well as many of the other character attributes of Christ. I also hope that you will find a new desire to live a life of honor and integrity before the Lord.

Although honor from God's perspective is much more than a definition found in some dictionary, I thought it would be helpful to consult the dictionary and see what light it sheds on our subject. So I consulted the dictionary and I also looked up the definitions of the four main Greek words that are translated *honor* in the New Testament. Then I also looked up the definitions of the four main Hebrew words that are translated

honor in the Old Testament as found in the Strong's Hebrew/Greek Dictionary.

After consulting these dictionaries I came away with the following conclusions: *honor* conveys the basic ideas of reverence, respect, dignity, esteem, and glory. Also conveyed is the concept of what is upright, just, right, true, honest, good, and noble with readiness to apply it to one's own conduct in relation to others. This definition will hold true in most all the places where we find the word honor whether in the Old Testament or the New Testament.

The Hebrew definitions of *honor* also add the concept of "wealth" and the idea of a significant and/or positive "reputation" that is worthy of reverence, respect, dignity, esteem, and glory. Keep in mind that each of the words used to help define honor also has synonyms and some of these words are even root words of other words. For instance, the word "right" was used to help define the word honor, yet it is also a root word found in other words like "righteous" and "righteousness." It is important to remember these words because many of these words are found throughout the Bible and can help us to understand honor from God's perspective.

Unfortunately, one of the most important concepts we need to understand and remember about the subject of *honor* is not easily seen from any of these definitions, yet it is essential to fully understanding the concept of honor. That concept is this: ***honor* many times conveys the idea of submission to authority.** We can see examples of this when people submit themselves to someone in authority such as a judge. When a person addresses a judge they call him, “Your Honor.” In a similar way, we only honor Jesus when we submit our lives to His authority and to His honorable ways of doing and being right.

MATTHEW 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

There is a passage in 1 Peter 5 that gives us a good example of honor showing its relation to this idea of “submission to authority.”

1 PETER 5:5-6

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [honor] your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to [honor] one another, and be

clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble [submit] yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt [honor] you in due time,

Understanding that *honor* is always submissive to authority helps to shed light on many Scriptures. This also gives us more insight to the first commandment with promise which is also one of the Ten Commandments.

EXODUS 20:12

12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

When God told us to *honor* our father and mother He was not only telling us to respect and esteem them, but He was also telling us to submit to their authority (and be subject to their decisions made on our behalf). God gave fathers and mothers the responsibility to take care of their children until their children could take care of themselves. In the same way, honoring our Heavenly Father starts with submitting to His authority. Honoring God out of a humble heart of submission, respect, esteem, and honesty is the only way we can

genuinely demonstrate to God the honor and the love we have for Him. *Also keep in mind that submitting to God's authority is synonymous with submitting to His Word.*

I would also like to point out another important association: the whole concept of “submission to authority” is synonymous with the idea of “obedience to authority.” How can you honor a person in authority over you, if you are not willing to obey them by doing what they ask? It is impossible! Remember that obeying a person in authority is first an inward choice. In other words, you can obey someone outwardly and still be in rebellion inwardly. True honor and true submission to authority comes from the heart. Here are a couple of scriptural examples.

COLOSSIANS 3:20

20 Children, obey [honor] [submit to] your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing [honoring] to the Lord.

EXODUS 5:2

2 And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey [submit to and honor] His voice [Word] to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."

When we endeavor to honor God in our lives through our conduct, service and obedience to Him, we need to make sure that we always stay in balance. What I mean by that statement is this: We do not want to become some kind of super-spiritual Pharisee that is putting on a show to draw attention to ourselves in order to receive the “honor and praise” of men. Rather, on the contrary, we should learn to live our lives before the Lord because we know He is always looking at the motives of our heart.

HEBREWS 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

We should always do our good works and service for one purpose alone, and that is to honor the Lord, even if no one else is even aware of what we do.

ROMANS 14:12

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

We also need to make sure that when we serve the Lord, our conduct and service is not done with the idea that it will somehow make us more righteous. We must come to understand that no amount of honorable service, conduct, sacrifice or good works will ever make us any more righteous than we have already been made, if we have received Jesus as Lord. It is important to know that our good works, conduct, service and giving are simply fruit that we bear as a result of the honor, love and respect we have for our Heavenly Father, and, that only because He first loved and honored us. Always keep in mind: The fruit we bear may never be seen or known by anyone but God alone.

MATTHEW 6:3-4

3 "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

When I began to write this book the Lord revealed to me that His concept of honor was not limited to the word honor and the dictionary's definition. I knew the Lord wanted me to understand the whole concept of honor from His perspective. He helped me to see honor as it related to the illustration of the divine puzzle. He showed me that honor is part of the "love" group sharing the same characteristics of God's nature. There are other words besides the word "honor" and the word "love" that describe the same spiritual concept.

In fact, try to imagine *love* and *honor* as though they were a great mountain. From a great distance (say, about a hundred miles) an enormous mountain does not look like much. However, the closer you get to the mountain and the more that you gaze at it, the more detail you begin to see. As you get closer to the mountain you see there are hills, valleys, and cliffs. If you were to get close enough you would see the mountain is immense. If you were to hike on this mountain you would see firsthand all the life on it such as trees, lakes, streams, and animals. You would see that the mountain has many sides and facets to it. Hiking around the mountain you would become aware that one side of the mountain (honor) looks different than the other side (love) – yet it is still the same

mountain. So it is when we try to put a “spiritual concept” into words, it is not easily defined in one or two words or even in one or two sentences. So it is with *love* and *honor* they are like a vast spiritual mountain with many other spiritual hills, valleys and rivers connected to it and each characteristic helps us to have a better overall perspective and understanding.

To further help you grasp what I am talking about, let me show you another example of *honor* and its spiritual characteristics. Pretend for a moment that a person you highly respect, such as your pastor, or maybe an ambassador, or better yet – let us say, the President of the United States were to come to your house for dinner. Whether or not you agree with the President’s politics you would most likely be honored to have him come to your home for dinner. Picture for a moment that you graciously seat the President and his entourage, taking his coat, offering him the best seat in your living room, trying to make him feel at ease and as comfortable as possible. You serve drinks and hors d’oeuvres.

As the evening progresses it turns out to be quite eventful. The President accidentally spills his glass of red wine on his shirt, all over your tablecloth, all

over your beautiful, plush, new white carpet. He excuses himself to go clean up the spot on his shirt, leaving a trail of soiled, stained towels and an overflowing sink behind. At the end of the evening, his Secret Service agent backs into your mailbox, knocking it off the post and crushing it beneath the limousine tires. You are left with tire tracks on your newly plated lawn.

After reading this story you might be thinking, “This sounds more like the Three Stooges came to dinner rather than the President of the United States.” Nevertheless, keeping this story in mind read the following Scripture passage.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

4 Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud,

5 never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

6 It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

7 If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and

**always stand your ground in defending him.
(TLB)**

Now I want to pose a thought to you. I have alluded to the fact that *love* and *honor* are the same spiritual concept, but if you are not yet completely convinced that they both paint a picture of the same spiritual mountain, then we need to give “*honor*” the “*love*” acid test. That is to say, if it is true that love and honor are the same spiritual concept, then they should both display the same basic characteristics. Right?

If, however, there seems to be a difference in the concept of *love* and the concept of *honor* it is most likely because of the following two reasons. First, the modern definition of the word *love* in the English language seems to have a tendency to convey a strong idea of affection than does the word *honor*.

In the original language of the New Testament, which is Greek, there are many words that are translated *love* yet each word actually conveys a slightly different concept of love.

The Greek verb “agapao” and its derivative, the Greek noun “agape,” have both been translated

love in one form or another in the New Testament. These words are used to describe everything from the very nature of God Himself, to God's attitude towards His Son, Jesus, and mankind in general, as well as, the attitude of men towards one another. Although these words do convey the idea of affection they also convey the idea of giving – even to the point of self-sacrifice for the betterment of others – hence, the translation of “agape” in the King James Version of the Bible as “charity.” These words also have the idea of love expressed as a deliberate choice of our free will, regardless of whether or not it is ever reciprocated, unlike the concept of love found in the world which is based on fickle emotions: love today – hate tomorrow. The word “Agape” is known as the “God kind of love.”

1 JOHN 4:8-12

8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected [matured] in us.

The God kind of love “agape” is not a self-absorbed love, nor is it based solely on affection. Rather, “agape” love is a deliberate act of selfless giving that finds its power and nature in God Himself. This very love has been shed abroad in the hearts of all that have received Jesus as Lord – Jesus being the manifestation of God’s love demonstrated to all of mankind.

ROMANS 5:5

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

If there is any other difference in the concept of *love* and *honor* it is because the word honor really has two facets. One facet deals with the relationship of honor to the concept of love. The other facet deals with the relationship of *honor* to the concept of *glory*. In fact, the Lord gave me a very interesting example to help correlate these concepts and their relationships. The Lord showed

me that the concept of *honor* is like unto our Heavenly Father, the concept of *glory* is like unto the Holy Spirit and the concept of *love* is like unto Jesus, our Lord.

Our Heavenly Father represents God's *honor* seated on a throne high and lifted up the supreme authority. The Holy Spirit represents the manifested *glory* of God's presence and power, and Jesus represents God's *love* demonstrated. They are all three individuals yet at the same time they are all one God working perfectly and harmoniously together in community. These three: *honor*, *love* and *glory* are the primary essence of God's nature and they flow together as harmoniously as the Trinity. All of God's many other character attributes flow out of these three.

It is important for us to understand that both *honor* and *love* share and convey the same idea of respecting and esteeming people as a deliberate act of our will, even to the point of self-sacrifice, and that is the point on which I want us to focus. Seen from this perspective both the words *love* and *honor* describe the same spiritual concept.

Remember the characteristics of love defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which we read earlier. Now

read these same verses with the word *love* changed to the word *honor*:

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

4 Honor is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud,

5 never haughty or selfish or rude. Honor does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

6 It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

7 If you honor someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. (TLB) [Author's Emphasis]

Before we begin the acid test let us first think back to the example of the President coming to your house for dinner. When the President accidentally spilled his glass of red wine on his shirt, all over your tablecloth, and all over your beautiful, new white carpet. What do you think you would have done? Kick him out of your house calling him a “bumbling fool?” Or some other choice words? Or, would you honor for him, as President of the

United States, allow you to be patient and kind, and hardly even notice that he did anything wrong?

This is a good example of *honor* because most likely the President is not a member of your family or a close friend. You may not even like him as a person, or his politics, but you would honor him as the President of the United States. The honor that you would have for him would most likely cause you to be patient, kind, gracious, not haughty, rude, irritable or touchy and, most likely, you would hardly even notice the wrong. On the other hand, how many people do you know that would treat a close family member with the same honor that was afforded the President if they had done the same things? Nevertheless, this example also confirms to us that honor is a choice of our will. We can consciously bestow honor on anyone to whom we choose to make the effort but we often allow ourselves to take liberties with people with whom we are most familiar. However, we should not allow our familiarity with people to breed contempt (or dishonor). We ought to treat all people with the same honor we would afford someone that we highly respect.

The Acid Test

Now for the *love* acid test: let us look at the different characteristics of *love* defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and some other Scriptures in order to determine whether or not *love* and *honor* are the same spiritual concept. As stated before, if *love* and *honor* are the same spiritual concept then it would only make sense that they would possess the same characteristics and qualities. If they look the same, act the same and work the same then we can only conclude that they must be the same. Right? In order to do this we will need to inspect the “fruit of love” very closely and then compare it to the “fruit of honor.”

LUKE 6:44

**44 For every tree is known by its own fruit.
For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.**

At this point, we are going to compare many of characteristics and qualities of *love* and the characteristics and qualities of *honor* found in the Scriptures. This will further help us to define and understand biblical honor. Below I have compiled

a list of twelve points referencing different characteristics of love and honor. They appear in no certain order. As you will see, there are many words that will help us to better understand honor. But be prepared – this is a long list with many Scripture references, as I prefer to let God’s Word speak for itself. Keep in mind that I have added words in [brackets] to help further amplify words and meanings. I personally recommend that you read the Scripture one time omitting any words in [brackets]. Then read the Scripture a second time replacing the underlined words with the corresponding words in [brackets] where applicable. You may want to take some time going through these points and meditate on the corresponding Scriptures to extract all the revelation God desires to impart to you personally. So let’s get started.

1. Honor, like love, is a divine gift from God, planted into our hearts at the new birth. A heart filled with the honor and love of God is also evidence that we have been born again.

ROMANS 5:5

5 ...the love [honor] of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 JOHN 3:14

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love [honor] the brethren. He who does not love [honor] his brother abides in death.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

7 for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but [God did give us] a spirit of power and love [honor] and self-control. (RSV)

2. Honor, like love, is meek, not self-seeking, never boastful or proud and is never jealous or envious. Rather, honor and love are humble, teachable and submissive to authority.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

4 ...love [honor] never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. (AMP)

PROVERBS 29:23

23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.

PROVERBS 27:2

2 Let another man praise [honor] you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem [honor and love] others better than himself.

3. Honor and love endure long and are patient, kind and good to all.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

4 Love [honor] endures long and is patient and kind... (AMP)

2 TIMOTHY 2:21

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

ROMANS 7

7 He will give eternal life to those who patiently do the will of God, seeking for the unseen glory and honor [love] and eternal life that he offers. (TLB)

EPHESIANS 4:2

2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love [honor]. (NIV)

4. Honor and love are never glad about injustice because honor and love are always truthful, honest and upright.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:6

6 Love [honor] is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. (TLB)

PSALMS 112:5

5 A good [honorable] man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion [justice].

DANIEL 4:37

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

PROVERBS 11:3

3 The integrity [honor] of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

5. Honor and love are faithful, devoted and loyal no matter what the cost. We can also see a good example of this in marriage. In a marriage one way you demonstrate your honor and love for your spouse is by your faithfulness and devotion.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

7 If you love [honor] someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. (TLB)

MATTHEW 25:21

21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good [honorable] and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

EPHESIANS 6:21

21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved [honorable] brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

6. True honor, like love, is full of joy and full of peace.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:6

6 Love [honor] is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. (TLB)

PSALMS 119:165

165 Great peace have those who love [honor] Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

1 PETER 1:8

8 Jesus Christ whom you have not seen you love [honor]. Though now you do not see Him,

yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory [honor],

ESTHER 8:15-16

15 So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.

7. Honor and love are respectful and esteeming to all.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem [honor and love] others better than himself.

PSALMS 119:6

6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect [honor and love] unto all thy commandments. (KJV)

JOHN 14:15

15 "If you love [honor] [respect and esteem] Me, keep My commandments."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

13 and to esteem them very highly in honor for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

8. Honor, like love, is merciful, compassionate and gracious.

PROVERBS 21:21

21 He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor [love].

PSALMS 112:5

5 A good [honorable] man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion.

PSALMS 37:21

21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous [honorable] shows mercy and gives.

PSALMS 112:4

4 Unto the upright [honorable] there arises light in the darkness; he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

9. Honor and love are both temperate and self-controlled.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

7 for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love [honor] and self-control [temperance]. (RSV)

GALATIANS 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit [honor and love] is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:25

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

10. Honor and love do not harbor grudges, hatred or animosity toward others. Rather they forgive at all times.

1 PETER 4:8

8 And above all things have fervent love [honor] for one another, for "love [honor] will cover a multitude of sins."

PROVERBS 19:11

11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory [honor and love] is to overlook a transgression.

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

13 Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

14 Most of all, let love [honor] guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. (TLB)

11. Honor and love bear the weaknesses of others and bring people together in a bond of unity, peace and perfection by the Spirit of God, who is honor and love personified.

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- 1 ...walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
- 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love [honor],
- 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit [honor and love] in the bond of peace.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

- 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved [honored], put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
- 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
- 14 But above all these things put on love [honor], which is the bond of perfection.

12. Honor and love are always ready to give generously.

ACTS 10:1-2

- 1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,

2 a devout [honorable] man and one who feared [revered and honored] God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

PSALMS 37:21

21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous [honorable] shows mercy and gives.

ACTS 20:35

35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He [honor and love] said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

I know that this was a long list of Scriptures to review but I hope you could see the relationship between *honor* and *love* and all the other characteristics that they share. At this point, we have come to the understanding that *honor* and *love* are both fruit that grow on the same spiritual tree with its roots planted deep in the Spirit of God. We cannot separate *love* from *honor* any more than you can separate “Jesus” from the “Father,” they are inseparable, they are One!

Remember, in the beginning of this teaching we used the illustration comparing the *image* of Jesus Christ to a divine *jigsaw puzzle*. I told you we could find the main puzzle pieces defined in the book of Galatians. The first fruit of the Spirit mentioned in the book of Galatians is love. We also learned that both love and honor represent the group of edge pieces that set the borders and contain all the inner groups and pieces. Then I stated that all the inner groups of pieces are the other fruit of the Spirit mentioned in the book of Galatians. All the inner groups work together, fill in and define the divine puzzle's image of *honor*, *love* and *glory*, which is the image of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love [the border pieces] [and love is], joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance [the inside pieces]: against such there is no law. (KJV)

Now we have come full circle. Having applied the love acid test using 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, also known as the “love chapter,” we determined that the characteristics used to define love in 1 Corinthians 13 are also used to define love in Galatians 5:22-23.

We found love and honor defined throughout the Scriptures. Some of the words that were used to define *love* and *honor* were: joyfulness, uprightness, peacefulness, goodness, patience, self-control, meekness, truthfulness, esteem, devotedness, faithfulness, submission, gentleness, forgiveness, unity, temperance, respectfulness, loyal, honesty and many more could have been used. Many of these words were either one of the fruit of the love mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 or one of the words used to define love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. And all these words represent pieces that help fill in the divine puzzle of honor, love and glory, which is the image of Jesus Christ. By understanding at least the main characteristics represented by the fruit of the love we will be better able to grasp and perceive the picture on the divine puzzle but if any of these characteristics are missing it will be much more difficult for us to clearly see. So it is with our lives: if any of the characteristics of *honor* and *love* are missing in our

lives we are incomplete as though a piece is missing from our life. We must understand and apply these character attributes to our own lives before we can expect to experience the true fruitfulness that can only be found in a life of wholeness in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Another way to think of the character attributes of Christ is to see them as though they were the legs on a table. If any of the legs are broken off or missing, our entire life becomes unstable and we are susceptible to falling. However, as we learn to walk in all the characteristics of *honor* and *love* we will become more and more stable. We will become the Christians that the world is hungry to see in this generation.

For those of you that desire to see the glory of God manifested in your lives and those of you that would like to walk in a greater anointing, well, it all starts here. If you allow the Holy Spirit to develop the characteristics of love and honor in your life and character, the glory and anointing of God will be chasing you!

I hope that now you have a basic understanding of biblical *honor* as it relates to *love* and as seen from God's perspective, including the understanding of

the characteristics that distinguish true biblical *honor* and *love* in a person's life. So I will end with an admonition from 1 Corinthians 14:1:

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

**1 Let love [honor] be your greatest aim...
(TLB)**

Would you like to know Jesus?

Read this page carefully, then pray.

ROMANS 10:9-11

9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." (NKJ)

Understand that salvation is not just reciting a prayer but salvation is opening your heart to Jesus and making Him Lord of your life.

Now pray: Jesus forgive me for my sins. I turn from my sins and I receive you, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior. I ask you to come into my heart and take control of my life. I believe you took my place and died for me on the cross and I believe that God raised you from the dead. I thank you for saving me and revealing yourself to me in a personal and intimate way. In Jesus name, amen.

Now do yourself a favor by contacting this ministry. We want to help you get started in the right direction.

About the Author

William A. Lee has been a Christian for nearly twenty years with a degree in Theological Studies. He completed courses in biblical studies at Crenshaw Christian Center's Ministry Training Institute and the International School of Ministry. He has taught on the life changing power of God's Word with revelation knowledge and insight to help bring believers up to higher levels of maturity and victory in Christ. William is a man with a message. Many years ago the Lord led him into an extensive study on the subject of honor and integrity. This study ultimately culminated in the writing of several books on the subject.

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