

THE ROOT OF CHARACTER: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

A Lifestyle of Honor & Reverence

Foundation Statement: The lifestyle of honor and reverence is one in which we, by the help of the Holy Spirit, consciously cautiously consider every word we speak, every thought that we think, and every action that we take, making sure that is reverent and honorable towards our Father. – Hebrews 12:28

I. This walk of reverence and honor is a cautious one (Hebrews 12:28)

A. Godly Fear – Caution, circumspection – (**watchfulness, alertness**, care)

1. A reverent life is one in which we act with caution, making sure we don't do anything to displease the Father. Not because if we do He's going to hurt us, but because He's our Father and we want to honor Him.

a. Being very cautious to not go against or violate His Word

b. He'll forgive me and that's great, but I want to do it right the first time

B. Honor – A keen sense of what's right and wrong in the mind of God and then a cautious respect to not violate right

1. In a reverent life there is an overwhelming desire to please the Father

II. Every word you speak, every thought you think, and every action that you make carries the potential to either honor or dishonor the Father.

A. A reverent life is a **slow** life

1. A slow life (James 1:19-20 KJ & AMP)

a. 16-Don't error-You're going to have to go slow to do that

b. 19-Slow to speak, Slow to wrath, Slow to act, Slow to take thought

c. 19-Quick to hear (mainly the Spirit of God, but men too)

d. 20-The natural impulses of our flesh don't lead to doing right things

e. 21-Put away the hasty words, thoughts, and actions

f. 26-If you can control your tongue you can control your thoughts and you can control your actions (James 3:2, Matthew 6:31, 2 Cor 10:5)

g. 26-If you can't control your mouth your Christian life will be void of force, success, and results

2. A reverent life is a slow life because every word you speak, every thought you think, and every action you take has to be checked. Is this carrying honor or dishonor to the Father?

a. EX: It's slow at the airport because everybody has to be checked

b. As believers we need to have an honor detector. Only if it honors God does it get through.

3. A reverent life is not lived in haste. People who are loose and hasty with the words, thoughts, and actions are not being reverent towards God.
 - a. Proverbs 14:29-He that is hasty lifts up his foolishness
 - b. Proverbs 25:8-Don't be quick to argue, complain, defend yourself
 - c. Proverbs 29:20-A fool might keep his mouth shut and listen
 - d. Ecclesiastes 5:2-Don't be rash with your mouth and hasty to talk
 - e. Ecclesiastes 7:9-Don't be hasty in spirit to be angry
- B. A reverent life is a **directed** life; You can't live a directed life and be in haste
1. You have to be slow to be directed
 - a. John 16:13 – The Holy Spirit is going to guide you into what's right, reverent, and what honors God (**Guide – Show the way**)
 - 1) When you live a slow life you are available to be directed
 2. When you live a reverent life, a slow life you are constantly acknowledging your authority in rank before you act and that is very respectful (Prov 3:5-7)
 - a. Trust God that he knows the best way to think, speak, and act
 - 1) Don't lean to your understanding of how to talk, your understanding of how to think, or your understanding of how to act
 - 2) God's my crutch I lean on him and rely on him
 - b. In all your ways of **speaking** acknowledge him, in all your ways of **thinking** acknowledge him, in all your ways of **acting** acknowledge him and he will direct you in the way to talk, direct you in the way to think, and direct you in the way to act
 - c. I'm not wise in my own eyes, I don't know what to say less I be directed by my Father, I don't know what to think less I be directed by my Father, I don't know what to do less I be directed by my Father
 - d. In living life like this you are fearing God and being very reverent towards Him and in doing so you're going to depart from evil
 3. We must live directed lives because there's always a way that seems right, but it's wrong (Proverbs 14:2)
- C. A reverent life is a **still** and **quiet** life (Psalm 46:11) **Still** – Be quiet and relax
1. If you're still you won't do anything that dishonors God and if you're quiet you won't say anything that dishonors God and you'll hear from him on what to say and do
 - a. Practice talking softly especially in pressured situations (Isaiah 7:4)
 - 1) Proverbs 15:1 – A soft answer will turn away your own wrath
 2. A reverent life is watchful, alert; It's one that is handled with great care

3. Jesus lived a slow and still life (John 11:3-6, John 8:1-7)

D. A reverent life is a very **purposeful** and **precise** life (Acts 11:23, Daniel 6)

1. My words, my thoughts, and my actions are so precious and valuable because they are the containers in which I send honor to the Father.

a. Recognize the weight of your words, thoughts, and actions

2. My words have purpose – What was the purpose of those words?

a. These words are powerful in that they honor God or dishonor him

b. I use my words to release faith – Mark 11:23, James 3:14

c. I use words to bless – Ephesians 4:29

d. I use my words to take thought – Matthew 6:30

3. My thoughts have purpose – What was the purpose of those thoughts?

a. These thoughts are very powerful in that they either honor God or dishonor him

b. I use my thoughts to get to me to the right place in life (Proverbs 23:7, Romans 8:5)

c. I use my thoughts to think good about people; I think love thoughts

4. My actions have purpose – What was the purpose of those actions?

a. These things that I do are very powerful in that they either honor God or dishonor him

b. I use my actions to love, to bless, to release faith and they get me to the right destination

III. When you are walking in reverence and honor towards God you are ever mindful of what pleases him and what displeases him

A. To live a lifestyle of reverence and honor is to be constantly considering what God wants you to do

1. Respect/Honor/Be Considerate – To show consideration or thoughtfulness

2. John 8:29, 26, 5:19-Jesus thoughtfully considered what pleases God

3. John 4:34-My fulfillment in life is doing what pleases the Father

B. Did you even consider what effect is this going to have on the Father?

1. Ephesians 4:29-31 – Grieve – To make sorrowful; to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow; to make one uneasy

a. Grieve – LUPE – Denotes a pain or grief that can only be experienced between two people who deeply love each other. Normally the word be used to picture a husband or wife who has discovered his or her mate has been unfaithful.

2. Hebrews 11:6 – You can please God and not please him

a. Ephesians 6:5 (AMP) – Be eager to please God

C. Lifestyle of reverence and honor Philippians 2:12 (AMP)

1. Self-Distrust – Don't trust yourself. You don't know what say, how to think, or how to act apart from God.

2. Serious Caution – Grasp the seriousness of every thought you have, every word you speak, and every move you make
3. Tenderness of Conscience – Be sensitive to your inward witness of right and wrong
4. Watchful against temptation – Be alert because every word, thought, and action of yours has the potential to honor or dishonor God.
5. Putting away things that might offend God

IV. The beautiful life of reverence and honor (1 Peter 3:1-6)

- A. Matthew 11:29 – Our Master, the perfect example lived like this
 1. **Meek**-Attitude of one who is friendly, warm, forbearing, patient, kind, gentle, slow to anger
 - a. One who remains in control of himself in the face of pressured circumstances,
 - b. One who knows how to bring his will under control
 - c. Just the opposite would be angry, temperamental, or given to outbursts of anger.
 - d. Meek people are individuals who have become skilled at controlling themselves and their temperament.
 2. **Quiet**-A person who knows how to calm himself and maintain a state of peace and tranquility
- B. God finds meek, quiet, submissive spirit beautiful
 1. When we submit to God it's beautiful to him and draws Him to us
 2. A quick, loud, rebellious lifestyle makes us unattractive to God
- C. In the eyes of God this meek quiet spirit is so precious and valuable
 1. It's precious to God because the meek quiet person will shut up and listen to God and won't be quick to do something dumb
 2. Numbers 12:3 – Moses was meekest man and the most used man of generation and he was the man that God's power flowed through the most