

# HONOURING GOD

This term, we are focussing on the theme of 'Honouring God'. This is an introductory study, asking: "Why Honour God?" Through Scripture, honouring God is not just a matter of verbal praise nor just our Sunday worship. Scripture calls us to honour God in many different spheres and practical ways as we live our lives.

In 1 Cor 6:19-20, we read:

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour (or glorify) God with your bodies.**"

In the preceding verses, the apostle Paul addressed the issue of sexual immorality, particularly the use of prostitutes by people in the church at Corinth. People had justified their behaviour with an argument that went like: "well, it's like food ... and we all have to eat. And we're sexual beings, so we need sex. God made us this way and we need to satisfy our appetites." In 1 Cor 6:19-20, Paul's response was that:

- God thinks you're valuable – and he's shown you how valuable you are by sending Jesus to die for you, to pay the price for your sin;
- God has given you another valuable gift - his Holy Spirit - so God, himself, indwells you;
- Your appropriate response is to live that out. Honouring and glorifying God should be our focus and impact our life choices, including our decisions about how we use our physical bodies.

**GETTING STARTED:** In the recent SBS series, "*Christians Like Us*", one housemate commented that she had no issue with sex outside marriage, believing "God has bigger things to worry about."<sup>1</sup>

- How is this housemate's comment similar to the attitude of some Corinthian Christians? If we take the focus off 'us' and our desires, and instead focus on the question 'is this going to honour and glorify God?', what difference should that make to our behaviour, speech and choices re ethics?

Over the Easter holidays, we also commemorated ANZAC Day on 25 April. We remembered – and honoured – those who served and continue to serve our country in the military services. We recognise that many sacrificed their lives or were injured in the course of service. While wars cut short or irreparably marred the lives of many young men and women, we continue to affirm that their lives had worth and value, not just for their immediate families and communities, but also in the achievements and benefits that we now take for granted, including those that were achieved as a result of their service.

- Who is someone that you respect and look up to? What is it about them (eg their qualities, characteristics and actions) that you value about them? How do you honour them?

In the New Testament, there are a couple of different words that are translated as 'honour'. Today we'll look at two of these words. In *Vine's Greek New Testament Dictionary*, words which derive from the Koine Greek word '*time*' (think 'timmae') primarily relate to 'value', 'price' and 'worth'.

- What aspects of meaning of the word 'honour' do you pick up from the following dictionary entries?

- A1. Honour (Noun and Verb) [Noun] (Greek: *time*) primarily "a valuing," hence, objectively, (a) "a price paid or received," e.g., Matt 27:6,9; Acts 4:34; Acts 5:2,3; Acts 7:16, RV, "price" (AV, "sum"); Acts 19:19; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Cor 7:23;  
(b) of "the preciousness of Christ" unto believers, 1 Pet 2:7, RV, i.e., the honour and inestimable value of Christ as appropriated by believers, who are joined, as living stones, to Him the cornerstone;  
(c) in the sense of value, of human ordinances, valueless against the indulgence of the flesh, or, perhaps of no value in attempts at asceticism, Col 2:23 (see note under *plesmone* under **INDULGENCE**);  
(d) "honour, esteem,"
- B1. Honour (Noun and Verb) [Verb] (Greek: *timaō*) "to honour" (akin to *time*), is used of  
(a) valuing Christ at a price, Matt 27:9, cp. A1(a);  
(b) "honouring" a person.<sup>2</sup>
2. Honourable, without Honor (Greek: *entimos*) lit., "in honour" (*en*, "in," *time*, "honour:" see *time* under **HONOUR**), is used of the centurion's servant in Luke 7:2, "dear" (RV marg., "precious ... or honourable"); of self-sacrificing servants of the Lord, said of Epaphroditus, Php 2:29, RV "(hold such) in honour" (AV, "in reputation;" marg., "honour such"); of Christ, as a precious stone, 1 Pet 2:4,6 (RV marg., "honourable"). Cp. *timios* in 1 Pet 1:7,19; see *timios*.  
The comparative degree, *entimoteros*, is used (in the best manuscripts.) of degrees of honour attached to persons invited to a feast, a marriage feast, Luke 14:8, "a more honourable man." See **PRECIOUS**.
4. Honourable, without Honour (Greek: *timios*) "precious, valuable, honourable" (akin to *time*, "honour;" see *entimos*), is used of marriage in Heb 13:4, AV, as a statement, "(marriage) is honourable (in all)," RV, as an exhortation, "let (marriage) be had in honour (among all)."

<sup>1</sup>SBS Guide. (29 March 2019) "Meet the housemates of Christians Like Us", <https://www.sbs.com.au/guide/article/2019/03/29/meet-housemates-christians-us>  
SBS Guide. (14 March 2019) "What happens when 10 outspoken Australian Christians live together for a week?" <https://www.sbs.com.au/guide/article/2019/03/14/what-happens-when-10-outspoken-australian-christians-live-together-week?cid=inbody:meet-the-housemates-of-christians-like-us>

<sup>2</sup> <http://gospelhall.org/bible/bible.php?search=HONOR&dict=vine&lang=english>

- Think about the following scenario: Someone close to you is about to have a birthday. You want to make this a special day for them and show that you honour and care for them – but you don't necessarily have a lot of money to spend. What things can you do and say, that communicate:
  - That they are a valuable person who has amazing qualities and does great things?
  - That you – personally – value them?
  - That you esteem and think highly of them?
  - That they are worth any price?

In some Bible translations, the Greek word 'doxa' is sometimes translated as honour, though its general meaning is 'glory'. In some New Testament passages, the words "glory" and "honour" are 'paired' together.

A2. Honour (Noun and Verb) [Noun] (Greek: *doxa*) "glory," is translated "honour" in the AV of John 5:41,44 (twice); John 8:54; 2 Cor 6:8; Rev 19:7; the RV keeps to the word "glory," as the AV everywhere else. See GLORY.

B2. Honour (Noun and Verb) [Verb] (Greek: *doxazo*) "to glorify" (from *doxa*, doxa), is rendered "honour" and "honouret" in the AV of John 8:54; in 1 Cor 12:26, however, in reference to the members of the body, both AV and RV have "honoured" (RV marg., "glorified"). Everywhere else it is translated by some form of the verb "to glorify," "have glory," or "be made glorious," except in Rom 11:13, "magnify," AV. See GLORIFY.

1. Honourable, without Honour (Greek: *endoxos*) denotes "held in honour" (en, "in," *doxa*, "honour;" cp. doxa under HONOR), "of high repute," 1 Cor 4:10, AV "(are) honourable," RV, "(have) glory," in contrast to *atimos*, "without honour" (see *atimos* below). See GLORIOUS, GORGEOUSLY.

The disciples only saw Jesus manifestly and physically glorified a couple of times. eg at his baptism, transfiguration and ascension. But John later wrote that "the Word became flesh and lived among us, and **we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**" (Jn 1:14)

- During Jesus' ministry, in what ways did Jesus honour and glorify his Father? (John 8:49)

Particularly in verses in Revelation, the writers 'layer' lots of different attributes and valuable things that they ascribe to God. We are reminded of how great God is and that living a life to glorify God is worth it.

- Read through one or more of the following passages and, after reading each one, ask:
  - What are all the things that the writer – or the worshippers - ascribe to God / Jesus?
  - What reason (if any) is given, for this outburst of praise?
  - What picture do you get in your head – about how 'worthy' God / Jesus is?
- **At the end of this exercise, use some of these words as a basis for prayer and praise.**

*"All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:*

*"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and **honour** and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" (Rev 7:11-12 NRSV)*

*"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,*

*"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and **honour and glory** and blessing!" (Rev 5:11-12 NRSV)*

*"The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be **honour and glory** forever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim 1:15-17 NRSV)*

*"In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time - he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be **honour** and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Tim 6:13-16 NRSV)*

*"Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,*

*"Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come."*

*And whenever the living creatures give **glory and honour** and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,*

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive **glory and honour** and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Rev 4:6-11)*