

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Sojourn // The Path of Honor*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What is a rule/command that you find particularly difficult to follow, or one that you find silly?

**Readings:** 1 Peter 2:13-25

### Outline:

- I. Honor Everyone ...
  - a. Honor should be the baseline for how Christians relate to the world. We define honor as the ability to recognize the worth of someone or something.
  - b. We should honor government by being subject as God's servants, honor society by using our freedom for good, and honor humans by treating them with dignity as God's creatures.
  - c. A life of honor leads us to desire the improvement of human systems, not their destruction.  
**Q: *Where has God placed us to seek the welfare of those around us?***
- II. ... even in suffering ...
  - a. The call to honor is not rendered void when honor is not reciprocated. It includes the response of mistreatment. The call to honor includes moments when we are persecuted and ridiculed.
  - b. In the face of a brutal and broken world, the Church's patient endurance in the face of mistreatment is fundamental to our witness.  
**Q: *What are some recurring difficulties in our lives that make it difficult to reciprocate honor? How can we learn to endure these things kindly?***
- III. ... as a reflection of Jesus.
  - a. Honoring those who would cause us harm and mistreatment is ultimately a matter of remembering who we are in Jesus. Jesus was mistreated for us. He bore our sins in his body so that we could be set free. By his wounds, we were healed.
  - b. Right now there is a great temptation for the church to embrace the tools of the world and respond to contempt with contempt. We should aim to let any mistreatment we face allow us to reflect Jesus into the world.  
**Q: *Are we responding to mistreatments in the way that Jesus would want us to? What could we be doing differently?***

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Is my life marked by honor? Where am I struggling to honor those around me as God's children?
- 2) What are specific things I can do to practice honor with people and situations that do not reciprocate respect and honor? How can I learn to act like Jesus during these times?
- 3) How can I balance the need to honor others with the need to honor oneself? When are there times where mistreatment demands a separation from the situation to best honor everyone involved?
- 4) How can our response to mistreatment demonstrate God's love to the world?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Jeremiah 29:4-7 **Q: *How does our honor for others, in turn, improve human systems?***
- Romans 13:1-7 **Q: *How does our response to authority demonstrate our love for God?***

### Closing Prayer:

Father God, you have called us to be people that live by honor, people that recognize the value and worth of those around us. We ask that you would forgive us for the places where we have not rightly honored your creation. We ask that you would strengthen us by the promise of the gospel. Pour out your spirit upon us to walk the path of honor. Amen.