

Let The Bible Speak Series

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

Honoring Christ

John 5:19-23

Three things taught in this passage:

1. That all men should honor the Son as they honor the Father.
2. He who fails to honor the son, does not honor the Father who sent him.
3. To honor the Son is to honor the Father.

In the world today, there is a movement on the part of some to dishonor and discredit the Son of God as much as possible. He has been pictured as a low level sinner who commits immorality with a number of women, a homosexual lover to a number of men, a self-centered egotist who was interested in his own fame and fortunes, and an impostor who tried to deceive the people into believing that was from heaven. All such claims, when weighed against the evidence given in the bible, pale into insignificance and are readily seen for what they are: the feeble attempts of unbelieving men to discredit and bring shame upon the sinless and spotless Son of God. What are some ways that we can honor the Son, and in so doing, honor the Father?

I. We Honor Christ By Making The Good Confession

1Tim.6:12-13 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate." It is the good confession because Christ made it under oath, the same being the legal charge upon which our Lord was condemned to be crucified. Mk. 14:62 when asked "are you Christ the Son of the Blessed" he responded "I am..." Christ made it, and died for making it, in order that we might make it and live. It is the good confession because God himself made it two times, speaking out of heaven in broad open daylight---1. Mt.3:17 at the baptism of Jesus; 2. Mt.17:5 at the transfiguration. It is the good confession because it is unto salvation Romans 10:10 "...made unto salvation." It has been made by the saints of all ages. Nathaniel made it in John 1:49 "you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel." Peter made it in Mt.16:18. Timothy made it 1Tim.6:12 "...have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." Martha made it "I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God" Jno.11:27. Nicodemus made it in John 3:2 "Rabbi we know you are a teacher come from God..." The Centurion in charge of the his execution made it in Mt.27:54 "...Truly this was the Son of God. The Ethiopian Eunuch made it in Acts 8:37 "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God..." John made it in John 20:30-31 and wrote an entire book in support of it. "...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." The same is true of the angels and of demons. The night of His birth the angels said "Behold there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:11. The demons said "What have I to do with thee Jesus thou Son of the Most High God?" Mk.5:7

Heaven, earth, and hell all have one word of Jesus Christ, "He is the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, the Son of God Most High." The good confession is "good" because it is a summary of all Christian doctrine. Everything depends upon this, the rock of our salvation.

G. To fail to confess Christ before men is to dishonor Him. Mt.10:32-33 "Whosoever will confess me before men him will I confess before my Father in heaven..." All men will be made to confess Christ's name in the last day Phil.2:11 "and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

II. We Honor Christ in Christian Baptism

The importance of baptism is seen in the fact that:

1. Christ submitted to it. Mt.3:14-15
2. Christ commanded all men to be baptized. Mt.28:19 and Mk.16:15-16

In Christian baptism there is a beautiful picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Romans 6:3-4 "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

III. We Honor Christ In The Lord's Supper Luke 22:19-20 "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." It is an honor to be remembered, a disgrace to be forgotten. After the church was established on Pentecost, "they continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread" Acts 2:42. Later the church at Troas continued in this observance Acts 20:7. Also the church at Corinth observed this feast and had to be rebuked for their negligence in observing it properly. Such practices, as mentioned there, failed to Honor Christ 1Corl.11:23-29. History indicates that this practice prevailed for at least two centuries after the death of Christ. Today, we have an appointment with Christ to meet together on the first day of the week. To neglect this gathering is to dis-honor Christ, and sin against God.

IV. We Honor Christ In Wearing The Name "Christian" And Refusing To Wear Another.

The church belongs to Christ (Acts 20:28) "purchased with own blood." This being the case, the church should be called after his name Mt.16:18. The disciples shall be called after his name according to the following passages:

Acts 11:26 "disciples called Christians..."

Acts 26:28 "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

1Pet.4:15 "if any man suffer as a Christian let him glorify God in this name."

To wear this name is to honor Christ; to fail to do is to dis-honor Him. Suppose your wife insisted on wearing the name of another man, would you be offended? Of course you would, so also is Christ.

In the N.T. our relationship to Christ is represented as that of a bride to her husband. 2Cor.11:2 "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Should we not, then, as the bride of Christ, wear the name of Christ, our bridegroom and refuse to wear the name of any other? John 3:28-30 teaches us that John was the friend of the bridegroom. He was not the bridegroom. Therefore we should not wear John's name. To do so would dishonor Christ.

V. We Honor Christ By Fashioning Ourselves According to The Pattern Of The New Testament.

The title page of the New Testament rightly tells us that it is the "New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." If we honor Him, we must honor the New Testament by seeking to pattern ourselves, in everything, according to its teachings. You cannot honor Christ without honoring the principles set forth in the covenant. A beautiful type of this principle is to be found in the life and ministry of Moses.

1. God wished to dwell among His people Israel, and to that end commanded them to erect a tabernacle and sanctuary. Since it was God's dwelling place, it could not be of human invention, so God took Moses upon the mountain and revealed to him the whole plan (Ex.25:9). Nothing was left to the imagination or invention of even this noble man of God, but the command was reiterated down to the very vessels of the tabernacle. (Ex.25:40). If Moses had in any particular deviated from this pattern would God have been pleased with Him? Even so it is with us, as we seek to live the Christian life and meet together in a congregational capacity for worship, we must do all things according to the pattern. No deviation is possible without apostasy 2Jno.9 "Whoso goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God."

VI. We Honor Christ By Seeking To Imitate Him.

Phil.2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ..." He came not to do His own will, but God's will. Jno.4:34 "...my food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work." Jno.6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." Unless we can come to Christ with that attitude, there is no need to come, for God will only accept those who are ready to let Him direct the course of their lives.

He came not to be served, but to serve Mt.20:26-28. "...whoever desires to be great, let him become your servant, whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. This was the great underlying principle of His life. He left heaven for others Lk.19:10 "Son of Man is come to seek and save the lost." He gave Himself for others during his ministry 1Pet.2:21 "...suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps." He gave Himself for others on the cross Rom.4:25 "who was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification." Gal.1:4 "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age..." This principle must motivate our service to God, or else we do not honor Christ.

Christ was compassionate, Isa. 40:11 "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young." Mt. 9:36 "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Christ was obedient. Heb. 5:8 "though He was a Son, yet he learned obedience by the things he suffered." He came to do the Father's will.

Christ was Prayerful. He began his ministry with prayer, Luke 3:21 at His baptism "while he prayed the heaven was opened..." He continued it with prayer, many times we find him praying. He ended it with prayer Lk. 23:46 "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Christ was forgiving. Luke 23:43 "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

This is a command for us. When we forgive we are honoring Christ and his example.

Eph. 4:32 "And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Col. 3:13 "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another..."

May God help us to Honor, the Christ, His Blessed Son in all that we say and do.