

Honor the Lord with Your Life

1 Corinthians 10:31 (New American Standard Bible)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God.

Introduction

Today is a very special day for our confirmation class. We thank God for their presence among us. Along with the parents, families, sponsors, teachers, and friends, I am very proud that seven youths have completed a 12 week-long class along with attending Sunday morning services and participated in service projects such as Loads of Love and Car Wash. We are proud of them, because this morning they are honoring their God in Heaven by committing themselves to the Lord. They are honoring their parents by being confirmed. They are honoring their sponsors, teachers, pastor, and the congregation by joining our church as an official member.

My message this morning is mainly for the confirmands. However, it also applies to the rest of the congregation. *Honor the Lord with your life.*

Content

Confirmands, today you have entered a relationship with the Lord. We call that relationship a covenant relationship. In this covenant with God, you promised that you will follow Him and walk in His ways all your life. In this covenant relationship, God, in turn, promises His presence, provision, and protection for you. In this relationship, you are called to honor Him with your life.

Remember the Fifth Commandment? *Honor your father and mother.* To honor your parents means to make them proud by what you do or just being who you are. For instance, when you do well in sports or at school, it makes your parents proud of you. When you get along well with your siblings, it makes your parents extra proud of you. In the same way, when you do certain things to honor the Lord, that will make your Father in Heaven proud of you.

Today, make a lifegoal to bring joy, honor, and glory to the name of the Lord in all you do and say.

I want you to develop a good habit of honoring the Lord in the following three ways.

With Time: Honor the Lord with your time by making the most of it. Ephesians 5:15-16. ¹⁵*So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil.* You may think that you have all the time in the world to have fun. You may believe that you will stay young forever. But any adult will tell you. Time

goes by very fast, like an arrow. Here's my advice for you. Be wise with your time. Make the most of your time. The earlier you learn that time is precious, the better it will be for you. Everyone has 24 hours a day. No more. No less. Learn to use your time wisely for the things that will help you grow strong; physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

For instance, praying is a good thing. Spending time with the Bible is an excellent choice (e.g., 15 minutes every day). Attending church services will help you to grow strong. Helping your parents with house chores is another good one. Stay away from the things that do not help you grow mature at all. I know some of you guys love to play games on computer or online. You can enjoy those games within reasonable limits. Don't get addicted to it. Use your time wisely. Develop godly and wholesome habits.

Jimmy Carter the former president wrote the following when he was 12 years old. *There are certain habits of thinking which have a good effect upon health.*

If you think in the right way, you'll develop:

- *The habit of expecting to accomplish what you attempt.*
- *The habit of expecting to like other people and to have them like you.*
- *The habit of deciding quickly what you want to do, and doing it.*
- *The habit of "sticking to it."*
- *The habit of welcoming fearlessly all wholesome ideas and experiences.*
- *A person who wants to build good mental habits should avoid the idle daydream, should give up worry and anger, hatred and envy, should neither fear nor be ashamed of anything that is honest or purposeful—"The Carpenter's Apprentice, Ariail and Feltz, p. 33).*

Honor the Lord with your time.

With Words/Actions (1 Corinthians 10:31). The second way you can honor the Lord is with your words/actions. God wants you to shine your light *before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16). One thing for you to begin with is this: Check the words that come out of your mouth. Are they wholesome and you wouldn't be embarrassed with those words you speak? Will your words build people up rather than tearing them down? Would Jesus, your pastor or your parents be proud of what you say every day?

I remember when I was about 9 years old. Even as young as I was, I realized that there were certain words that were bad. So, I decided not to call anybody names nor say any curse words. Since then, it tremendously helped me to stay wholesome and clean in the sight of the Lord and before people. By the way, beware of a bad company, because you may pick up a lot of bad things from them, words and actions alike. That's why it is crucial for you to have a good company. If you need some help on this, ask your parents. They are the trustworthy ones who can help you all the time. Parents are your best friends forever! Honor the Lord with your words and actions.

With Wealth: Finally, honor the Lord with your wealth. This may sound so remote to you now, because you don't work nor make any money right now. But this is very important. Keep this one in your mind. Honor the Lord with your wealth.

God commands us to honor Him with our money. ⁹ *Honor the Lord from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce;* ¹⁰ *Then your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine* (Proverbs 3:9-10). When you give offerings and tithes to the Lord, the Lord uses them to keep His Church open and to keep our communities healthy. In our class, we learned about tithing. Giving 10% of your income to the Lord. Start your tithing early with your allowances. Even when you start making your own money, continue your tithes to the Lord. By doing so, you will honor the Lord your God.

Here's why the Lord commands us to do so. First, God sustains His church and our communities with our offerings and tithes. Remember this church was established in 1803? Over two hundred years, our church has been a beacon of light in our community, and it is still going strong. Thanks to our ancestors who have done a great job--keeping our church door open. Their offerings and tithes to the Lord enabled our church to help our communities in all these years. It is our turn to keep our church going strong through our offerings to the Lord. Those who give tithes to the Lord will never go hungry. They will have a financial security in their hearts and lives.

Next, the Lord helps the less fortunate people in our communities with your offerings and tithes. Learn yourself early to help the poor as well. By doing so, you will honor God. *One who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but one who is gracious to the needy honors Him* (Proverbs 14:31). God gives you so many blessings such as life, health, family, and friends. Give God your heart-felt thanks for your blessings. At the same time, don't forget that those blessings are never meant to be for you alone. God wants you to share your blessings with others. When you do so, you honor the Lord in Heaven, and He will bless you with more blessings so that you may continue the good works in your lives.

Conclusion

Honor the Lord with your life, with your time, words/actions, and wealth. Starting today, *do all things for the glory of God whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do and say.* Then, all will be well with you and our society will have a hope in the future. Amen.