

Honor the Lord with Your Life

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB 1995)

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Introduction

Today is a very special day in the life of our church.

We gather to celebrate three young people who have completed twelve weeks of confirmation classes and who are publicly affirming their faith in Jesus Christ.

To our confirmands, let me say how proud we are of you. Your parents are proud of you. Your teachers are proud of you. Your church family is proud of you.

Most importantly, we pray that your Heavenly Father is pleased with the commitment you are making today.

Confirmation is more than joining a church. It is more than completing a class. It is entering into a deeper covenant relationship with God.

Today, you are saying, "Jesus Christ is my Lord, and I want to follow Him." In this covenant relationship, God promises His presence, His provision, and His protection. And in return, you promise to love Him, trust Him, obey Him, and honor Him all the days of your life.

That raises an important question:

What does it mean to honor God?

Our Scripture this morning gives us the answer. Paul writes: *"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

Notice that Paul doesn't limit honoring God to church activities. He doesn't say, "Honor God only when you pray." He doesn't say, "Honor God only on Sundays." He says: Whatever you do. In all you do. Whether you are at church, at school, at home, with friends, playing sports, studying, working, or relaxing—everything can be done to honor God.

Today I want to share three practical ways you can honor the Lord with your life:

1. Honor the Lord with your time.

2. Honor the Lord with your words and actions.
3. Honor the Lord with your wealth.

1. Honor the Lord with Your Time

One of the gifts you will receive today is a watch. It is a beautiful gift, but it is also a reminder. Every time you look at that watch, remember that time is one of God's greatest gifts. God's Word says: "*Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time.*" (Ephesians 5:15-16)

When you are young, it often feels like you have all the time in the world. You may think: "I'll always be young." "I have plenty of time." But ask any adult here, and they will tell you the same thing: *Life goes by quickly.* Years pass faster than we expect.

Illustration: The Daily Bank Account

Imagine that every morning someone deposits \$86,400 into your bank account. At midnight, whatever money remains disappears. You cannot save it. You cannot carry it over to the next day. What would you do? You would use every dollar wisely.

Well, every day God gives each of us something even more valuable than money. He gives us 86,400 seconds. Once they are gone, we can never get them back. Time is precious. That is why we must learn to use it wisely.

Spend time in prayer. Spend time reading God's Word. Spend time with your family. Spend time helping others. Spend time growing in your faith.

Develop good habits now while you are young. Good habits produce good character. And good character becomes a good life. There is nothing wrong with enjoying games, sports, hobbies, or entertainment.

God wants you to enjoy life. But don't allow those things to control your life. Use your time wisely. Remember that every hour is a gift from God and an opportunity to honor Him. Because you belong to Christ, honor Him with your time.

2. Honor the Lord with Your Words and Actions

The second way to honor God is with your words and actions.

Jesus said: *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

People often learn more about your faith from your actions than from your words only. Your life speaks. Your attitude speaks. Your words speak. Your behavior speaks. Every day you are telling people something about Jesus by the way you live.

Illustration: The Toothpaste Tube

Let me give you a simple illustration spoken words. Imagine squeezing toothpaste out of a tube onto a plate. Now try putting it back in. You can't. Once it comes out, it's out. Words are like toothpaste. Once words leave our mouths, we cannot take them back.

A careless word can hurt someone for years. A cruel word can damage a friendship. A lie can destroy trust.

But a kind word can encourage someone. A loving word can heal a hurting heart. A truthful word can build trust.

The words we speak matter. I remember when I was about nine years old. Even at that young age, I realized there were certain words that dishonored God.

So, I made a decision. I decided not to use curse words or call people hurtful names. That decision helped me tremendously throughout my life. It helped me stay wholesome before God and respectful toward others.

Young people, the world will give you plenty of opportunities to use bad language. Your friends may use it. Social media may encourage it. Movies and music may normalize it. But remember who you belong to.

You belong to Christ. You represent Him.

Choose Your Friends Wisely

The Bible teaches us that our friends influence us. Good friends help us grow. Bad friends can pull us away from God. Choose friends who encourage you to do what is right. Choose friends who help you become the person God wants you to be.

And whenever you are unsure, talk to your parents. They love you. They want what is best for you. They are not your enemies. They are some of your greatest supporters and best friends.

Before you speak, ask yourself:

- Would Jesus be pleased with these words?
- Would my parents be proud of these words?
- Do these words build people up or tear them down?

Honor God with your words. Honor God with your actions. Let your light shine. Because you belong to Christ, honor Him with your words and actions.

3. Honor the Lord with Your Resources

The third way to honor God is with your wealth. You may think this doesn't apply to you yet, because you don't work nor make any money right now.

Some of you may be thinking: Pastor, I don't have any money. Maybe not much. But this lesson is important to learn early.

In our class, we learned about tithing. Giving 10% of your income to the Lord. Today you've been given a small gift — \$20. Here's a chance to practice what we've been learning: start your tithe right now with that. This is going to be your first tithes to the Lord. Continue 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.

And the Lord will reward you with a financial security. Those who give tithes to the Lord will never go hungry. They will have a financial security in their hearts and lives. That's God's solemn promise to us: *"⁹ Honor the Lord from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine"* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Everything we have comes from God. Our life comes from God. Our family comes from God. Our health comes from God. Our abilities come from God. Every blessing is ultimately a gift from Him. Because God has blessed us, He calls us to remember the Giver and be generous.

Illustration: The Apple Tree

Imagine an apple tree that decided to keep all of its apples for itself. What would happen?

The apples would simply fall to the ground and rot. God designed the tree to share its fruit. In the same way, God blesses us so that we can bless others. The blessings God gives us are not meant only for ourselves. They are meant to be shared.

That is why we give a 10% of income to the Lord. That is why Christians give offerings. That is why Christians help the poor. That is why Christians support the church.

Learn to trust God in money while you are young. That is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself.

Helping Those in Need

The Bible also says: *"He who is gracious to the needy honors Him"* (Proverbs 14:31). One way we honor God is by helping those who are struggling. God cares deeply about people in need. When we show kindness, compassion, and generosity, we reflect God's heart.

For more than 200 years, this church has been serving this community. Why? Because generations before us honored God with their giving. Their offerings helped keep the doors open. Their generosity helped support ministries. Their sacrifices helped people hear the Gospel. Now it is our turn. And someday it will be your turn.

Learn early that generosity is not losing something. It is participating in God's work. Because you belong to Christ, honor Him with your wealth and resources.

Conclusion

Let me bring us back to the watch you will receive today. Every time you look at that watch, I hope you remember this day. Remember your confirmation. Remember the promises you made. Remember the God who loves you. Remember the covenant relationship you entered into.

Every tick of that watch is a reminder that time is passing. Every day is a gift. Every hour is an opportunity. An opportunity to honor God. Honor Him with your time. Honor Him with your words and actions.

Honor Him with your resources.

Most of all, honor Him with your whole life.

Let 1 Corinthians 10:31 become your life verse: "*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*" Whether you are studying in school. Whether you are playing sports. Whether you are working. Whether you are spending time with friends. Whether you are helping your family. Whether you are worshiping in church.

Do it all for the glory of God.

And as you honor Him, may He guide you, bless you, strengthen you, and keep you all the days of your life.

Amen.