



Part 3: Honor - *Nicole Wright*

HONOR: To regard, esteem, or respect; to revere;
to treat with deference and submission

To dignify; to raise to distinction or notice; to bestow honor upon;
to elevate in rank; to exalt; to glorify; hence, to do something to honor;
to treat in a complimentary manner

Eph 5:25 – Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church & gave Himself up for her.

1 Peter 5:7 – Casting your care on Him b/c He cares for you – *Allow your wife to share with you & you do the same.*

Romans 2:4 – it's the Goodness (Love) of God that leads men to repentance.

Proverbs 31:11 & 23 – Her husband trusts her and she greatly enriches his life. Partially because of her honor for him he was an Elder in the city.

We aren't necessarily honoring the way they're acting. We are honoring the man/woman of God that they are called to be. We are choosing to honor the person that God sees through Christ.

You and your spouse are one. So if you lift them up, you will go higher as well. If you tear them down, you are tearing part of yourself down. So YOU have the power within you to take yourself higher as you lift up your spouse.

Most of the things that destroy marriages are good things just put in the wrong priority.

Our spouse always comes first, even before the kids, parents, work, or church. Ephesians 5:31 says we must leave our mother and father & be one with our spouse.

One of the greatest things you can do for your kids is to show them how a marriage works.

Showing them to Fight FOR someone & not against them. Showing them that a covenant is unbreakable. How different would marriages be today if kids grew up seeing that level of commitment?

THIS relationship between a mother & a father greatly impacts the way they see our Heavenly Father!

Not only that, but....

There will come a time when our children must leave us and become one with another. **If we have let those children or work or life divide us, we will never be whole.**

You aren't meant to do it alone! Honor your spouse & honor the blessing from God in marriage.

Your marriage will never go to the places God intended it to be, if you keep it hidden in the trunk, or putting it on the back burner.

When you say that marriage isn't a priority, you aren't just speaking of your spouse, you are speaking of yourself as well b/c you are one!

Jesus is jealous for us with a passionate jealousy not a lustful jealousy. He wants to be first in our lives and will fight for us. He is always chasing after us. **When we are jealous for our spouses like that and fight for our marriage, we don't have to fight in our marriage.**

God designed our marriages to get better with time. **The more we get to know each other & spend time together, The more we should become closer and love each other and resemble each other. The more we grow together, the more we mesh into one.** It's like a tree that is grafted into another. Eventually, it's hard to tell there was 2 b/c it's become this beautiful new creation!

But too often we pick at the differences and cause a wound before the beauty can blossom.

Stop keeping your marriage down because you're waiting on your spouse to change. **You change your marriage by chasing after Christ, not by running away from each other.**

But don't put your spouse on a pedestal above Christ. They will never fulfill what God was intended to be the source of.

If you do that, you are only setting them and your marriage up for failure.

When God is your source for love He is able to love you with the perfect love that your spouse cannot do. But he is also able to fill you with the love for your spouse that you can't get anywhere else.

Put yourself in your spouse's shoes. Empathize with them. **Ask yourself what it's like to be married to you.**

Jimmy Evans says "5 min of empathy each day will resurrect a dead marriage."

It's honoring them enough to think about their feelings & not just your own.

You don't only reap WHAT you sow, but also WHERE you sow.

If you sow into your marriage, you reap in your marriage.

Sow honor, love, forgiveness, passion.

You start with a seed, not a whole crop. But one tiny seed can reap a bountiful harvest.

Sow Service!

Honor your spouse by serving them. If you were serving each other, you are needing nothing. A leader serves. At the last supper the disciples were discussing who was the best. But Jesus stood up and started serving them and washing their feet.

Selflessness is almost like a selfish act: You can't bless someone without getting blessed your self

Honor your spouse enough to ask for help from a pastor counselor. The devil works in darkness and lack of knowledge. It's okay to say I don't know and I need help. **But don't get advice from someone that you are willing to trade places with.** Don't ask for marriage counseling from someone on their third marriage. **And don't blast your problems all over social media. Satan loves it when you tell him where the weak spots are.** And if you tell the world your marriage is weak, he will send someone to be for your spouse what you currently aren't giving them.

Genesis 2:24 and 25 they left their parents and became one and they were both naked and not ashamed. They bore all before each other and weren't ashamed because they knew each other thoroughly. When your marriage is pure you can show your differences and sensitivity and not be ashamed. It was when sin came into the world that they had to cover themselves with fig leaves. **Can you bear all before your spouse?** And I don't mean just your birthday suit.

We keep our marriage pure honoring each other and letting our love for each other guide our decisions. We keep it pure by discussing everything, not keeping secrets. Honor your spouse with trust. Remember – they are a part of YOU!

WHAT DO THEY WANT? HOW CAN I HONOR THEM?

Men want honor and respect. It's not a respect through domination. But men are to love their wives as Christ loved the church & wives are to respect their husband as she does the Lord.

Don't nag him. Honor him with your trust. Honor him as the man he is to be, not just as the way he's acting. In Proverbs 31, the husband was an elder in the city bc of how she honored him.

Men die for honor.

Ladies, cover his faults & celebrate his strengths.

Men need sex. They are also more visual. So they enjoy you naked or in lingerie more than in granny panties & a moo moo. (But men can help a woman feel secure in her appearance by not comparing the bodies of other ladies. Your wife needs to be the most beautiful thing you've ever seen)

Men wants their wives to be their friend. They don't need a mother.

Men will open up more to their wives when they are having fun together.

Women want security, they want to know the man will give himself to keep her secure. They want to know that they are a priority, above work, golf, the boys...

Men love your wife as Christ loved the church. He loved so he gave. Be sensitive to her needs. She needs to know that you are thinking about her.

Soft un-sexual affection. When you increase the affection she will increase the passion.

Open and honest communication. Woman doesn't won't grunts and groans. She connects to you through communication.

Women need a strong leader. They don't want to be dominated, they want to be your equal but they want you to lead them in the matters of the home with the kids finances, sexuality and spirituality. Women, LET your man lead. Met women who are unfulfilled. Don't respect their husbands, but they treat him more like a son than a strong man of God, provided to lead the family. Women want this even when they don't realize it. So men, man up! Women, sometimes we need to shut up!

We don't meet each other's needs through our own feelings and desires. Women need to be more sexual and men need to be more communicative.

But as we are honoring each other and giving to each other – we will find that we are lifted higher ourselves, & are lacking for nothing! We are operating as one, instead of as a fraction!

Love is a CHOICE & Commitment to Unconditional giving at the leading of God!

Honor your spouse with love, even on the days you don't like them.

Sowing love is sowing God into a situation.

And nowhere in the Bible does it say that you will one day just fall out of love & can therefore break that covenant.

Love is a Choice!

Honor is a Choice!

But true joy will manifest when we invest honor & love into our marriages. So allow God to lead you on how to honor.