



LOVE
YOUR
CHURCH



honour

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A D A M R A M S E Y

SESSION 1

1. What is it about God that makes you want to honour him? You might like to share stories of times when you've been overcome in worship—what was it that so struck you about God in those moments?
2. Why is it so important to tell the truth about God?
3. *Read Luke 6:46-49.* How do Jesus' words help us understand why God cares about how we behave?
4. *Read Matthew 15:1-7.* In what way did the Pharisees and scribes seem to be honouring God? In what sense were they actually dishonouring him? What might be an equivalent to this today?
5. Where do you see devotion and reverence for God in your own church? Are there any areas for growth in this?
6. What about you personally? Can you identify one area in which you long to honour him more as a result of this chapter? Take some time to pray about this.

SESSION 2

1. What might your church look like if every time everyone walked into the building, their first thought was not “What am I going to get today?”, but “Isn’t it amazing that I’m even a Christian? Isn’t it utterly ridiculous that God has extended grace to someone like me?” What difference would this make?
2. In what ways does the culture around us discourage humility?
3. *Read Luke 14:8-1.* In what ways did Jesus follow his own instructions here?
4. What are some ways in which we can apply Jesus’ words to ourselves today—at home, at church, at work?
5. What do you think it looks like to honour one another in a way that doesn’t lead us into pride?
6. What could your group do to foster a culture of humility over the coming weeks and months?

SESSION 3

1. We're called to outdo one another in showing honour. How is this different from other forms of competitiveness?
2. *Read Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2.* What practical ways can you think of to apply these commands in your church?
3. Sometimes we are tempted to criticise or show our irritation with people rather than honouring them. What are some ways to help ourselves to see others in the way God would like us to see them?
4. What do you think it looks like to honour someone with whom you deeply disagree? What about someone who has treated you badly? Re-read pages 56-57 for help with this.
5. Re-read the sections "Arrive before Others" and "Gather Thoughtfully". What practical steps could you take to build up this kind of culture in your church?
6. Take some time as a group to practise honouring one another. In your own time, say something true about someone else in the room—publicly honouring them and thanking God for them.

SESSION 4

1. *Read 1 Peter 2:11-23.* In what ways are we called to live honourably towards outsiders in these verses?
2. How does Jesus' example encourage and help us as we do so?
3. What sort of reputation do you think Christians have generally in our culture?
4. What are some good and bad ways of responding to opposition or nastiness (whether over our Christian convictions or other issues)? Share some real-life examples if you can think of them.
5. What does it look like to honour the gospel in our speech? Are there particular situations when this might be more difficult?
6. Identify the key situations and settings in which each of you interact with non-Christians. In what ways might God be challenging you to live more honourably there? Take some time to pray for one another.

SESSION 5

1. *Read 1 Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-9; 2 Timothy 4:1-5.* What key ideas about church leadership do all these passages have in common?
2. What attributes should be avoided in a church leader, according to these passages? Can you say why?
3. What leaders have you been particularly grateful for in your Christian walk? Which of the five hallmarks of honourable leadership listed in the chapter did they particularly display?
4. How has this chapter helped you assess your own expectations for church leaders? Do you ever expect too much? Or too little?
5. What do you think you could do to support your church leaders in each of the five hallmarks mentioned in the chapter?
6. How do you think you should be praying for your own church leaders in the light of what you've read and discussed? Pray for them now.

SESSION 6

1. *Read Hebrews 13:7, 17-18.* If leaders “keep watch over [our] souls”, why is this a reason to obey and submit to them? Why is it a reason to pray for them?
2. When do you think we should not obey leaders? When do you think we should obey even though we find it difficult?
3. *Read 1 Timothy 5:17-20.* Imagine someone makes an accusation about your pastor to you. What do you think you ought to do?
4. What are the differences between relating to a leader personally and relating to them transactionally? (See page 101.)
5. Can you think of further ways of loving and appreciating church leaders, not listed in the chapter?
6. What is one step you can take this week or this month to honour a faithful leader in your church? And how can you make this a regular habit?