**Honour God, Honour People: Where is Honour?**

***Deputy Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

“A son honours his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’ “By offering defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the Lord’s table is contemptible. 8 When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the Lord Almighty. “Now plead with God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?”—says the Lord Almighty. “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you profane it by saying, ‘The Lord’s table is defiled,’ and, ‘Its food is contemptible.’ And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the Lord Almighty. “When you bring injured, lame or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the Lord. 14 “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the Lord Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

(Malachi 1:6-14)

Big Idea: Honour - loving God and fearing God are both sides of the same coin called honour.

# What is Honour

## Honour begins with God

Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained. (2 Samuel 2:30b)

God reveals Himself to us as a Father; we are the children. (Malachi 1:6) We love God but we also need to fear God



## Honour is due to our parents.

Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

On the flip side, the way the father lives his life should deserve the honour of his children. Consider the case of the absentee father.



I suspect that it works both ways: the less we emphasize the need for children to reverence their human fathers, the less God's fatherhood will trigger our reverence; and the less God's fatherhood wakens our reverence and honour, the less we will make that part of the human ideal of fatherhood. - John Piper

The human father is reflection of God the Father. Fathers, as much as we want to have playful affection for your children, they must also learn to have a reverential respect and honour of you.

## Don't be flippant

All of us are full time Christians but do we lead double lives? Do we see serving God as burdensome rather than being ready to serve God? Also in the way we come to church, are we offering "useless fires" with heart far from God? Do we only give God our leftovers? Do we get distracted during celebration? Do we practise careless worship?

# The Majesty of our Almighty Father

Malachi helps us in 3 ways to feel the majesty of our Almighty Father

## God is called the LORD almighty

The word Lord is used 8 times in these 9 verses and a total of 24 times in the whole book of Malachi. The original word is YHWH, a word without vowels. The Jews revered this word so much that they skip it when they read the scriptures.

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. (Exodus 3:13-15)



## God does not need our sacrifices

 “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. (Malachi 1:10)

I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. (Psalm 50:9-12)

And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:25)

God owns everything. When we come to worship him, to serve him and to offer sacrifice. It is a privilege. Do we take this privilege seriously?

## God will be honoured by all

My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 1:11)

God is the Creator in our past, the King in our present and the Judge of our future.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. (Revelation 22:12)

Remember

* We are not saved by works but there will be a judgment of our works.
* Do not think we can be flippant with God and get away with it.
* There is a system of reward.
* Whatever we do God notices - if you honour Me, I will honour you.

God notices even if people do not notice. God will slowly nurture broken servants back to full service again.

As you honour God, God will honour you

The Lord Almighty - would that change your life? As we leave the auditorium. Has the seed fallen on good soil?

# Two Applications

## To human fathers

* Reverential esteem and tender affection. There are the two sides of the same coin. Some parents today tend to swing to one end.
* Some situations are not open to negotiation. This is the same with God. Sometimes God said no and that is final.
* Need to teach children.

## To our relationship with God

The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. (Psalm 25:14)

It is amazing that God confides in us. But this is only for those who hold a reverent fear of God.

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” (Hebrews 12:5-6)

God rebukes those he loves. We need to maintain a healthy tension.

Pastor Chris then made funny analysis.

*Funny how a RM50 dollar bill looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the mall.*

*Funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing or shopping.*

*Funny how long a couple of hours spent at church, but how short they are when watching a movie.*

*Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into overtime, but we complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.*

*Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200-300 pages of a bestselling novel.*

*Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, and don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.*

*Funny how people are so consumed with what others think about them rather than what God thinks about them.*

Love and Fear of God at the same time that results in PROPER HONOUR of Him



*Sermon summary contributed by Zhenli and Loong*

*Prayer Points by Loong*



SERMON: Honour God, Honour People: Where is Honour?

**Pray:**

* We as Christians will accord to God the fear and love he deserves.
* We will live a life that honours God.
* We will give the best in our life to God and not the leftovers.
* We will constantly and consciously choose to honour God.
* Parents will develop healthy relationship with their children, one that allows close relationship while at the same time maintaining respect and honour to the parents.

***My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 1:11)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Explicit Gospel Bible Study**

**The Explicit Gospel Bible Study will take place on 6 Sundays from 22/05/2016 to 26/06/2016.**

**Pray:**

* Church and cell group members will sign up for this Bible study.
* They will have the dedication and commitment to attend every lesson and do the required work.
* The facilitating team will be anointed to help participants learn.
* The participants will have a wonderful learning experience that is life-changing.
* The participants will have an even better appreciation of the Gospel.

***He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: Sarawak State Election

***The next Sarawak State election must be held on or before 20/09/2016. The current Chief Minister has proposed 30/04/2016 for election.***

**Pray:**

* Free and fair election.
* The current regime will not abuse their power to deny the opposition a fair opportunity to campaign,
* Elected representatives will work hard for the interest of the people they represent.
* The people in Sarawak will really get a fair share of the resource distribution. They will get equal opportunity as a citizen of Malaysia.

***Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you. (Deuteronomy 1:13)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Panama Papers**

***After Wikileaks and the leak of classified documents by Edward Snowden, an estimated 11.5 million confidential documents are leaked from Panamanian corporate service provided, Mossack Fonseca. The leaked papers identified the shareholders and directors of many companies. Many world heads and business leaders were named. Having an offshore account itself is not a crime. But it can be used for illegal purposes including fraud, drug trafficking and tax evasion.***

**Pray:**

* Government leaders and business leaders to have integrity in what they do.
* Any dishonest activities will be exposed and actions will be taken against the perpetrators who betray the trust of the people.
* With secret no longer being safe, everyone from different segments of the society will avoid going for fast money and instead work hard to earn money.

***The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him. (Proverbs 11:1)***