

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Honor God

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In our world today, how do we honor people? We give them awards at banquets for achievements, so they are recognized as the best in the company or in their field. At a wedding, the bride and groom are honored because this is one of the most special days in their lives. It is a special bond that they are entering into. At a graduation, students earning degrees are honored with a diploma. Certain individuals graduate with honor, high honor, or highest honor, to show the “weight” of honor they deserve.

How do we honor God? Proverbs 3:9 proclaims, “Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase” (KJV). In all my study I did on honor in Proverbs, there is no other reference to honoring God but through this – giving back to Him of your possessions. That is quite a powerful statement.

Why might this be the way God is, and wants to be, honored? First, it shows that He is our master, not money. In Matthew 6, Jesus states, “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (v.21) and “You cannot serve both God and money” (v.24). If we are giving to God our firstfruits (meaning the beginning, first, best), we are taking action to show that our heart is loyal to our God above, not treasure below. We are recognizing who are true master is. Second, it shows the special bond we have with God. God knows we are giving to Him a portion of what we have earned to survive. In that sacrifice, we are trusting God that He will take care of our needs. Our giving shows we believe God is our Father, and we are asking Him to take care of us. Good fathers take care of their children. In Luke 11:13, Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy

Spirit to them that ask him?” (KJV). In our giving we are depending on our Father to take care of us. Third, it shows we know that our wealth is from God. Our giving gives “weight” to this truth because we are living by it. It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that what we earn is ours, but giving to the Lord’s work helps to establish the truth (that all we have is His) in our minds.

So, based on the Scriptures, are you honoring the Lord with your wealth? Is He being recognized as the Lord of your life through your money and possessions? Are you showing Him the special position He has in your life through your wealth? Did He get highest honor with your wealth last month? As you think about these questions, here is some advice. If you are not giving to God’s work, begin doing it now! To not give would be to honor yourself. If you are giving, the thing to determine for yourself is how much honor do you give Him? Does He get honor only after you have honored yourself? You need to set a goal on which you and your family agree that honors your Lord, which could be a tithe or maybe more. If you are unsure what that is for you, seek godly counsel from a pastor or mature believer to help you set this goal. Then, if God blesses you with more wealth, give more. Honor Him who has honored you. “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power...” (Revelation 4:11a).

We would agree that God needs to be honored. Therefore, we need to give in a way that honors Him. Do you?

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org