



## Sermon Discussion Guide - January 20, 2019

**SERIES** - HONOR: On The Way To A Life Worth Living

**TITLE** - "On The Way To Love"

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

**SUMMARY** - Everyone wants to be held in high esteem; to be honored. What is held as honorable is based on the values of a particular community and for the Christian community values are determined by God and his Word, the Bible. One of the ways believers pursue a life of honor is by pursuing a life of holiness. Holiness can be described in multiple ways but the Apostle Paul describes it in this passage as purity. Paul encourages followers of God to honor God by pursuing purity with their bodies and their sexuality. When we pursue holiness we honor God and we honor our spouse or future spouse.

### DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

### Read / Reflect / Respond

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

**Monday** - 1 Timothy 1:17 *"To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

**Tuesday** - 1 John 4:9 *"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."*

**Wednesday** - John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

**Thursday** - Romans 12:10 *"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."*

**Friday** - Colossians 4:5-6 *"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."*

**Saturday** - Ephesians 6:2-3 *"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

### GROUP DISCUSSION

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. What makes God worthy of honor? What specifically has God done in your life that has helped increase the honor you have for him?
3. How does someone learn to love? Is it possible for someone to know how to love even if they have not received love themselves? (1 Thessalonians 4:9, 1 John 4:10)
4. How can we help nonbelievers honor Jesus and his followers? (John 13:35, Hebrews 12:1)

Close with prayer requests and prayer

### NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing with honoring God? How am I doing with loving others?
2. RESPOND – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. PRACTICE – What is one way that you can incorporate or practice love in your week?



## Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

### Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. *Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!*
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

### Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, [www.faithunitedepc.org](http://www.faithunitedepc.org). As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.