

*Alêtheia Christian Fellowship*  
*November 8, 2020*  
*“Honor God, Honor Others”*

*Sunday school at 8:30, Service at 9:15, Service at 10:45 with King’s Kids.*

*NEWS*

Be respectful of others by allowing them to deal with COVID 19 in their own way.  
 Wednesday Night Activities at 6:30 PM

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ [www.myaetheia.com](http://www.myaetheia.com)

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

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1) God’s omnipotence means that any power others have is only derived power. Satan is in control of the world, but God is in control of Satan.

2) “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12b). It is ours to work out, but we do as extensions of God. “For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

We lack because we are disconnected. Our relationship dysfunction with God is never due to Him.

- 1) Understand the problem
- 2) Realize that you can’t fix it
- 3) Open yourself up to God’s work by being intentional

**MATTHEW 22:34-40**

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

## 3) “Lawyers,” “Scribes,” or “Experts in the Law.”

Manuscripts... The Great Isaiah Scroll (350-125 B.C.) If you believe that God could inspire men to write Holy Scripture...

## 4) This is Christianity... This is the entire thing Christ died to enable... Nothing can matter more to you than God. Second only to that, and within that, enabled by that, you must love others.

The church universal, yes, but worked out and demonstrated in the church, local!

We prove that we are His, because it is His love being perfected within us that enables our love for one another (John 13:35).

Real love has arms. The proof that you love others as God directs is that you HONOR them.

## 5) I Peter 2:17, Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

- 1) I don't want to “Honor the king.” He's not my king!
- 2) “Fear God.” Well, I don't like that.
- 3) I will “Love the brotherhood” as I define it.
- 4) “Honor all people” except for the ones I don't want to honor.

Honor is τιμή (tē-mā). The root of the concept has to do with value... Love God by being humble enough to honor Him in all things and because of His love for you and bestowed upon you, love others...

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon/Elder

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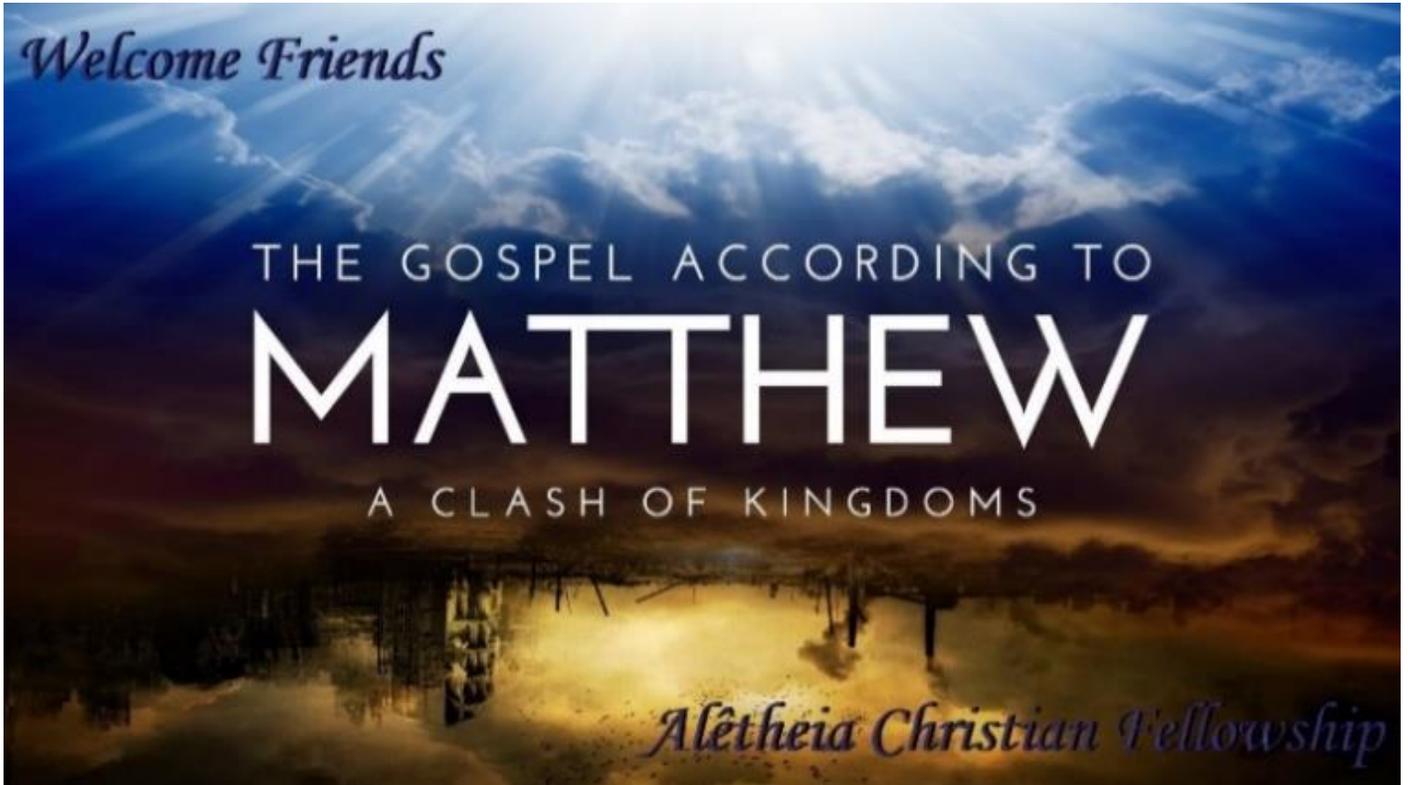


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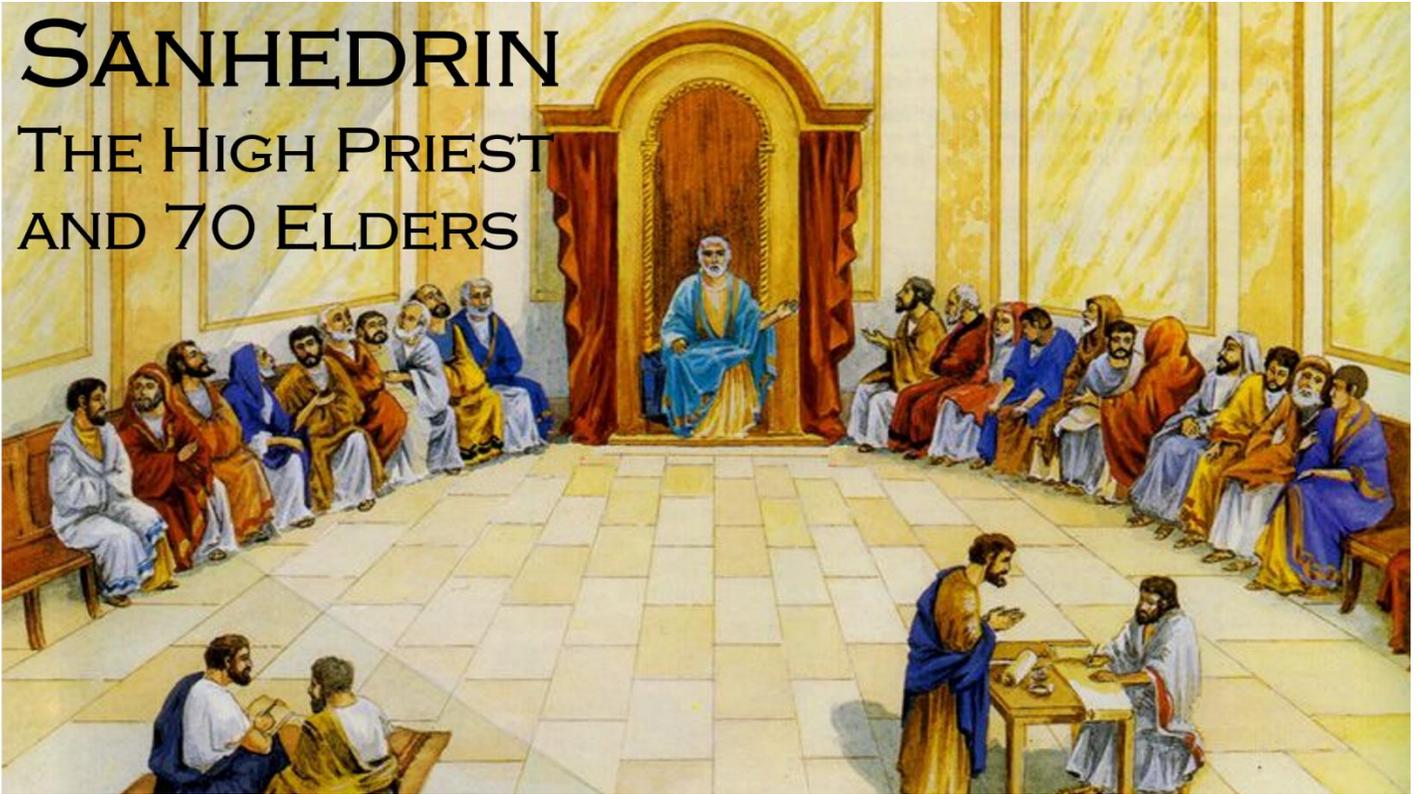
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Alêtheia ~ Matthew 22c ~ 110820  
“Honor God, Honor Others”



# SANHEDRIN

## THE HIGH PRIEST AND 70 ELDERS



Last week, Jesus was directly confronted by the highest-ranking Jews in the land. The sect, or we could say denomination, of the High Priest and the majority of High Council members. These were the supreme rulers of the Jewish people, in so far as Rome would allow. Last week I said that Satan was in control of this world and then said it was really God Who is always in control. Satan only controls what God allows him to control and similarly, the Sadducees only controlled what Rome allowed them to control.

There is a sort of flip side that we saw with the Centurion, many months ago. As an agent of the king, to disrespect, or disobey the Centurion was the same as disrespecting, or disobeying the king and since the

king's position and authority were bestowed by Rome, it was the same as disrespecting, or disobeying Caesar himself.

This derived, or delegated, or bestowed, or allowed, position, authority, power, and control, is an important concept for another reason. We often get a bit confused about what the Christian has done, is doing, or is supposed to do, and what God has done, is doing, or is supposed to do.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:12B-13

...WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH  
FEAR AND TREMBLING;

“Work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12b). the Bible tells us. I thought I was entirely saved by the completed work of Jesus - why am I being told to work it out myself for myself? What does that passage go on to say in the very next verse?

# PHILIPPIANS 2:12B–13

...WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH  
FEAR AND TREMBLING;

13FOR IT IS GOD WHO IS AT WORK IN  
YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR  
HIS GOOD PLEASURE.

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). A Christian must do many things in the running of the race that God has set before him or her, but never forget that it is God doing whatever is required through that Christian. As an example, we could correctly say that Fred has faith, but it’s actually God Who has faith through Fred.

Christian maturity can be talked about from a human perspective as relative growth in a person, but the Truth is the maturity is nothing more than a person being more connected to Christ. “It is God who is at work in you.”

Please understand, our problem with a lack of faith, with a lack of love, with a lack of patience, with a lack of empathy, with a lack of Christian maturity has everything to do with our disconnect with God.

The disconnect is entire as non-Christians. When a person is saved the disconnect from God's side of the equation is eliminated instantly. We have full access to Him - His connection to you never gets better. No matter how mature you become, no matter how many decades you serve Him, no matter how terrific your witness, no matter how effective your ministry, you will never be more connected with God in reality, than you are at the moment of your salvation. The relationship dysfunction is never from Him.

Put another way, God doesn't move closer to you because He comes to like, appreciate, or enjoy your company better over time. How then can I talk about a disconnect? It is the remaining disconnect from our side of the equation.

We are not fully connected to Him - we resist that. If we could stand in Heaven right now in the full presence of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit among all the angels and all the saints, fully experiencing all the

glory of God and understanding everything in Truth, we would have no disconnect with God and therefore no problem with, or lack of faith, love, patience, empathy, or Christian maturity.

In that moment we are not thinking about sinning, we're not distracted from God, we're not fussing and fighting with others, we have no problem believing that God exists, that He's in control and that He loves us... In that moment we are fully connected from both sides.

Our problem is we are standing on this planet in this physical environment and because of our life experience we have a fundamental disconnect from our side, from our perspective, even though we can understand intellectually that the disconnect is only a barrier of our own making.

I can recognize that the weakness of my connection to God is solely due to my inability to see beyond the physical, but knowing that is very different than overcoming that.

What to do? 1) First understanding the problem, 2) second realizing that we can't fix it and so, 3) third

opening ourselves up to God's work in our lives by being intentional.

We get involved with other Believers in church, we read our Bibles, we pray throughout the day, we listen to Sermons, we study the Scriptures, we sing Christian songs, we meditate on the things of the Lord, NOT because doing these things makes us mature, but because doing these things helps us open up to the Holy Spirit's work in breaking down the barriers... His work in better connecting us to God from our perspective.

## ROMANS 12:2

2AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

It has everything to do with the "Renewing of our mind," as Romans 12:2 declares. "Be transformed by the

renewing of your mind.” According to God’s Holy Word, it is that change of perspective that enables us to know, embrace and live out “The Will of God.” We become extensions of Christ... God wills and works through us ensuring that our salvation has its intended effect, right here, right now, as well as for eternity.

Bottom line? You want to be a Christian - you want to fulfill God’s purpose for your life - you want to be mature? You don’t get there by doing things... You get there by opening up to God in the doing of those things so that the Holy Spirit can use them to expand your vision, enabling a better connection from you to the Source. In that, we easily recognize that it’s not about me, it’s always all about Jesus in me.

He gets the glory not only for my existence and my salvation and for any positive growth in me as well as for the closeness of our relationship... And if He is the only one Who can accomplish that, is He to blame for a lack? No, I am to blame for the lack, because it is due to me resisting the Spirit’s work., primarily by allowing myself to be distracted by the world around me.



How distracted are you by the things of this fleeting, temporary world? Politics, Covid, masks, the fear and irrational behavior of others, the fear and irrational behavior of yourself... How distracted from God are you? That was a pre-planned tangent of totally free bonus material. Take from it, that in order for God to get closer to you, you need to get closer to Him.

Back to the passage last week. Jesus completely shut the Sadducees up and did so with authority - in this case, we could say His own personal authority, but truly, in the role of flesh and blood Jesus, it was authority derived from God. We could as correctly say that it was the Father and the Holy Spirit Who shut them up through Jesus. Matthew tells us that the

people were astonished, and the Sadducees were stunned into silence by the rebuke.

**Matthew 22:34-40** <sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. <sup>35</sup>One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>“This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup>“The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>“On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Let's pick up the action there... Matthew 22:34-40, 34NASB But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. 35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 “This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” A Pharisaic Lawyer was

an expert in the Law of Judaism. They were also called Scribes because most of them were also authorized copiers of Holy Scripture. While Rabbis were kind of like pastors, teaching and preaching to the people, Lawyers were academics - basically Jewish religious Biblical scholars. They devoted themselves to the details of what we call the Old Testament, and so, to the details of Judaism.



In those days everything was a manuscript... Literally meaning, scripted manually, as in, written out by hand. There were no digital records, no copy machines, no carbon paper between pages, no printers, no typewriters, no stenographers... Just good old-

fashioned handwriting, with a stick dipped in ink, of a sort, on rough papyrus-based paper, of a sort.

Every bit of Holy Scripture in existence, up to that point, and for the next several centuries, was individually copied by hand from another copy. Due to the sacred nature of the work, only highly trained and naturally talented, professional Scribes were allowed anywhere near the task. These men spent their entire lives painstakingly, meticulously, working with the text of the Scriptures. While a Rabbi could read it, preach it, extol it, teach it, and encourage it, it was the “Scribes” who were the “Experts in the Law,” the “Lawyers” who best understood the content and the context of God’s Word.

Just to quickly address a thought you might have about the constant copying of the Bible over thousands of years, let me say, that they were extremely careful.

The concern that we hear expressed today, is that since the Bible was copied so many times, it can’t possibly be accurate today. That assumes that error grows over time as with the exercise we do where one person whispers a phrase to another and that person whispers it to a third person and the process is

repeated until the final person says out loud something quite different than what was first whispered. The message is always corrupted in the process.

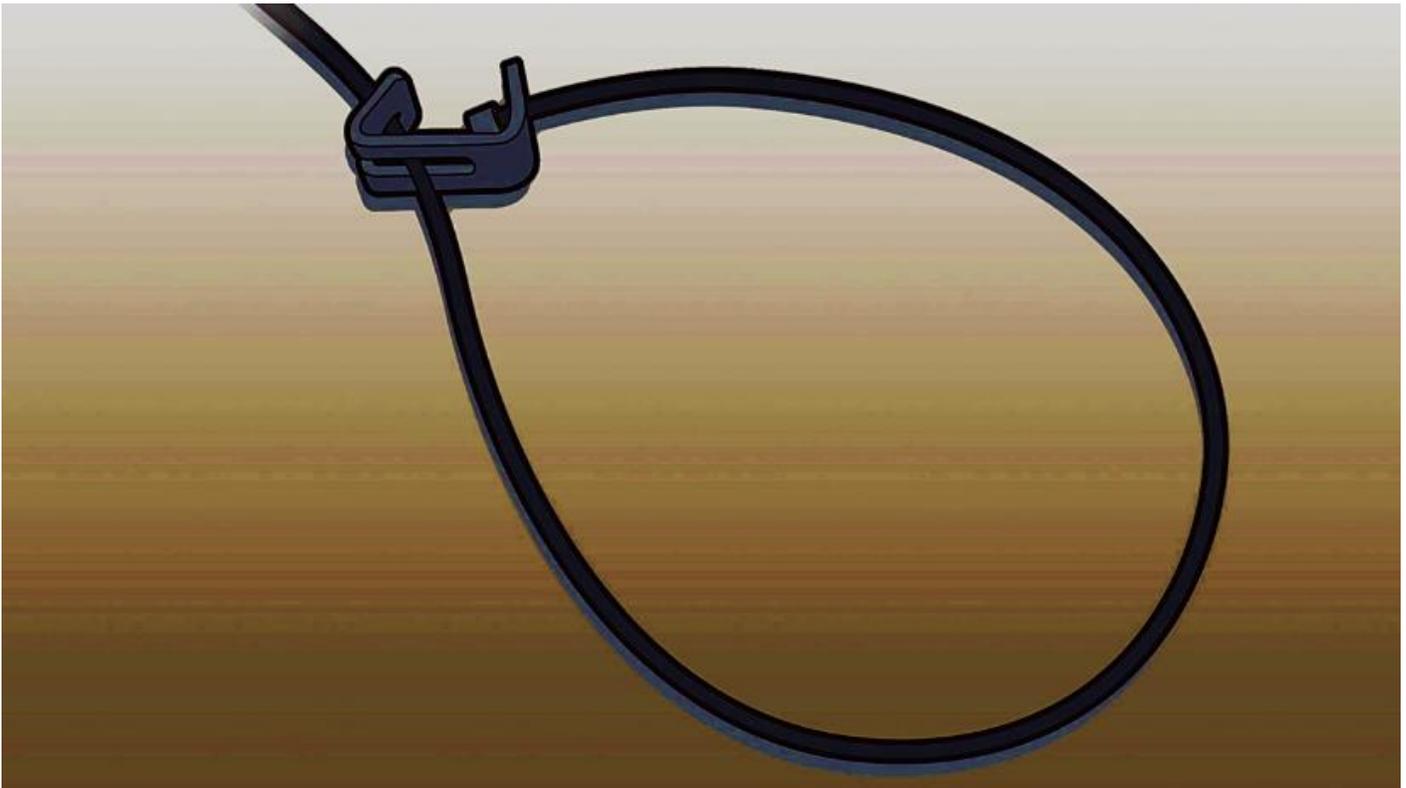
We do that somewhat cavalierly and secretively. Is it possible to do the same experiment, but have all the participants highly trained and wonderfully skilled in meticulous memorization? To then have them be extremely focused and working with tremendous diligence to get the message right because it is of supreme importance? Is it possible that such a group could give the same message at the end that the first person started with?

The care with which the Scribes copied has now been proven beyond any doubt. With the discoveries at Nag Hamadi and Qumran Wadi we know with certainty that the Bible we have is the same now as it was at the start. As one example, the Great Isaiah Scroll unquestionably produced between 350 to 125 B.C. An absolute minimum of 150 years before our events in Matthew, when translated directly into English today, it is substantially no different than the Isaiah in the Bible you now hold in your hands. Unchanged for well over 2,000 years, why would we think it was changed at all? We know with certainty that the Old Testament we

possess is the same as the Scriptures Jesus used. When it comes to the New Testament, the text is so certain, with such overwhelming evidence, that as one scholar put it... "It's just embarrassing." Over 5,000 ancient copies bear that out. In honesty, there is no difficulty knowing what God's Word always was. There's no difficulty translating it accurately from the original languages into any modern language today. What God has said to us is easy to know - it's a little harder to understand and it's just humanly impossible to obey. Therefore, we humans make excuses.

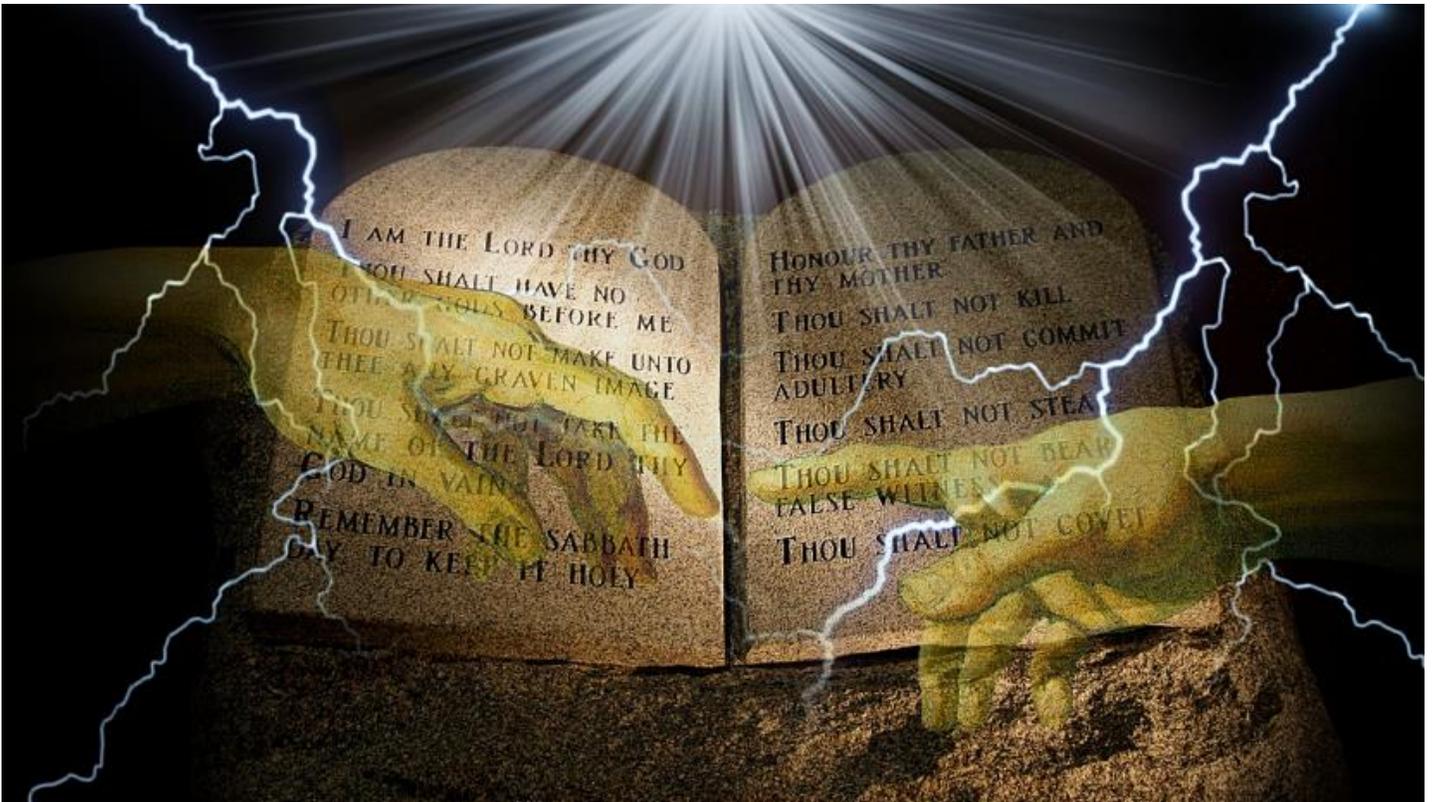
If you believe that God could inspire men to write Holy Scripture, why can't you believe that He preserved that Scripture through time? The Truth is that such people don't want to believe that Almighty God has spoken intelligibly to mankind. If He's intelligibly spoken, we might have to listen.

I mentioned to the Sunday school class last week, that it's good to answer the questions people have about Christianity and the Bible upon which it is based, but at some point you just have to say, "You know enough. You know enough to decide. You'll never know everything and so it will always be a step of faith to accept Christ - you already know enough."



Back to the Lawyer. His question seems reasonable enough - it seems like a genuine request for information, but we are told explicitly that it was a trap. That was in no way a surprise to Jesus.

Again, the establishment were looking for a way to paint Jesus into a corner - get Him to commit to something that they could then use against Him. "Which is the great commandment?" On which of the Ten Commandments would Jesus stake His claim? No matter which one He chose, an argument could be made, that He was wrong.



Which Commandment did Jesus choose? Well, He chose them all and included all the rest of the 613 Old Testament laws to boot. Not to mention wrapping in all the writings and all the prophets and all the great theologians and all the wonderful scholars of the past combined. It was not only the perfect answer to shut up the Lawyer, but it was also, of course, the correct answer as well.

See an answer could have perfectly silenced His opponents and not have been the best answer from a Biblical/spiritual/right-relational, point of view. What I mean, is we see people give great answers, but that

doesn't mean that they're true answers from God's perspective.

Jesus not only blew the guy and his trap out of the water, but He also gave the only true answer God would give. I know I'm belaboring something here, but it's important to recognize that Jesus' answer was not just an answer to that dude's question on that particular day.

His answer is the only correct answer for all people, throughout all time, and on into eternity forevermore. This is Christianity... This is the entire thing Christ died to enable... If we cannot be people who actively live out Jesus' answer given here, we have completely missed what it is to be like Christ... We have completely missed the goal of Christianity and the intended effect of having the Holy Spirit indwell us.

The fact is, I need God to help me love God. And if I need His help to love Him, a perfect being, I definitely need His help to love other, fault-filled humans.

Francis Chan

Friends, this is it... If you are not enthusiastic about loving God with your entire being - with all you are and all you have, forever without end, and likewise loving all of your fellow siblings in Christ... You're in the wrong place. Quite simply, you don't want to be a real Christian. That's blunt, but it's true.

Nothing can matter more to you than God. Second only to that, and within that, enabled by that, you must love others. You must love your fellow Christian. That actually means loving the church. The church is your fellow Christian. Your love for God is proven by your love for His people, which is proven by your devotion, dedication, and enthusiasm for Christ's Body on earth.

The church universal, yes, but worked out and demonstrated in the church, local!

You must love the church enough to sacrifice your personal good for the benefit of the group. You must hold your opinions, and your personal ambition, and your preferences, loosely enough to honor those Christians who look, act, and think, differently than you do. Loosely enough to foster unity in the church. Just a bit ago, I mentioned Philippians 2:12 where it admonishes us to “Work out our own salvation in fear and trembling.” I’m not going to fully explain that passage today, but I promise you the context of that Biblical command is related to church unity. You cannot be a God pleasing Christian if you are sowing seeds of disharmony in His church!

Listen, these are not my words, these are God’s words to you. “Love one another.” It is the second greatest Command from God that exists according to both the Old Testament Law and to Jesus Himself as He explicitly gave it on the night that He was betrayed by a friend who chose disunity because he didn’t agree with the direction.

**JOHN 13:35, 35**“BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.”

As I said, it is our love for one another that proves our love for God... Again, not my words, not my ideas, not my agenda... But that of Jesus Himself. John 13:35, 35NASB“By this all men will know that you are My disciples (i.e. that you love God), if you have love for one another.” We prove that we are His, because it is His love being perfected within us that enables our love for one another...

Christians are like, “Yeah, yeah, blah, blah, blah, I love others. I’m the most loving guy there is - no one loves more than me - I love everyone. Really, no one loves better than me.” Real love has arms. My friends, real, true, Godly, Holy Spirit enabled love... has arms.

Real love is not some feeling, nor is it some nebulous theoretical position you hold, nor is it something that remains untested. Real love is provable. Just as loving one another proves that we love God, real love for others, is likewise a provable reality.

And the proof is probably not what first enters your mind. It isn't about tolerance for deviant behavior. It isn't about indifference to bad doctrine. It isn't about hugs and kisses. It isn't even about serving others. The proof that you love others as God directs is that you honor them.



You must honor every person in this room. You must honor every other Christian on the planet. You must even honor all the non-Christians on the planet... And if you were trying to keep track - that covers every person period. honor everyone because God has filled you with His Spirit and He honors everyone. What does that mean. Every human being is made in the Image of God. Every human life matters. Because God has deemed that it matters. God has declared that each one is His personal creation. He honors every person - by loving them so much that He paid with the life of Jesus so that they might be saved. God honors every human being so much that He gives them the right to refuse His love and reject His proposal. He honors people so much that He will give them for eternity that which they chose in this life.

# I PETER 2:17

17 HONOR ALL PEOPLE, LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING.

We, as His beloved children, can do no less. Again, I don't make this stuff up... I Peter 2:17, Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

1) I don't want to honor the king - he's not my king... Well, Almighty God would beg to differ. My friends, nothing takes God by surprise. The God of all creation has placed the king over us, and it is irrelevant what others do about it - what Christians do, is obey God by honoring the king.

Who do you think the king was when Peter wrote those words? The crazed tyrant Nero - the guy who burned Christians at the stake to illuminate the road at night.

The guy who murdered at least two of his wives and his own mother. The guy who executed the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter. Peter said honor the dude who is going to hang me upside-down until I'm dead. I think we can honor the person God has appointed over us at this time.

2) "Fear God." Well, I don't like that. That fearing God doesn't resonate with me. God is a Teddy Bear. He doesn't want me to fear Him. I think I'll respect, but not fear Him.

Ever seen a volcano erupt? Ever been in a large earthquake? Ever stood on the bank of a raging river? Ever seen lightning hit a tree? Ever seen a tornado or a hurricane. All child's play - all of complete insignificance compared to the majesty, power and wisdom of Almighty God. If you have no fear of God - you don't comprehend Who God is.

3) I will love the brotherhood, i.e. the church, i.e. other Christians who meet my standards. We may not say that... We may not even think that such a statement describes us, but that's the Truth of it for most Christians.

Look, I hate spelling things out, I like to present a general principle, and have you work out how it applies. Sometimes, I guess I just need to connect the dots for people better than I normally do... In the last few months a number of people in this church have left the church, or threatened to leave the church over how diligently I enforce the mask wearing mandated by the king that God appointed over our state. What is that other than, I will “Love the brotherhood,” so long as the “Brotherhood,” meets with my approval?

4) “Honor all people.” Honor God and honor all people... What is honor?

Peter went on in his letter to say in I Peter 3:7, You husbands... show your wife honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. In other words, honor your wife, or just forget about praying. Forget about pretending to be a Christian if you cannot honor the wife God has given you. Hebrews 13:4, Marriage is to be held in honor among all. The institution as we call it is the covenant God established in Genesis. One man united together with one woman becoming one flesh in the sight of God... Honor that. The Commandment with a promise is “Honor your father and mother.”

# ROMANS 12:10

BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN  
BROTHERLY LOVE; GIVE PREFERENCE TO  
ONE ANOTHER IN HONOR

ESV, "OUTDO ONE ANOTHER IN SHOWING HONOR."

KJV, "IN HONOUR PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER."

NIRV, "HONOR OTHERS MORE THAN YOURSELVES."

NLT, "TAKE DELIGHT IN HONORING EACH OTHER."

MSG, "PRACTICE PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE."

The Apostle Paul in Romans 12:10 said, 10NASBBBe devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor. "Give preference to one another in honor." What does that mean - what is this word honor? The ESV&HCSB say, "Outdo one another in showing honor." KJV has, "In honour preferring one another." NlrV translates, "Honor others more than yourselves." NLT goes with, "Take delight in honoring each other." The MSG takes the negative side by saying, "Practice playing second fiddle." Bottom line, we are to honor God above all. Within that we honor the things of God - His Word - His Commands - His Principles. - His creatures.

So, second to honoring God is honoring people and it is in what I think of as expanding rings of priority. First honor your spouse, Second, honor the Christian family you're in. That's Alêtheia for most of you. Somewhere in there, we must give double-honor to someone. Then we honor the Christians in other family groups scattered all across the globe. After that we honor those people who are not saved yet. There's nothing wrong with the worst person you know, that being genuinely saved and filled with the Holy Spirit couldn't fix.

What is honor? Technically it is τιμή (tē-mā), giving us the name Timothy. The root of the concept has to do with value... Something of value is esteemed, honored, and respected. For Americans today, the better way to understand what God wants from us is to respect people because of their intrinsic God-declared value... Since we understand the value and thereby respect the other person, we treat them with dignity and honor.

It means we don't disparage them, we don't demean them, we don't run roughshod over them, we don't manipulate them, we don't require that they agree with us, we don't dishonor them in any way, shape, or form.

“Who are you to judge another man’s servant?” (Romans 14:4) is God’s question to us about judging other people. Now, notice that if I honor another person, it does not mean that I am required to agree with their actions, or their opinions. I’m required to respect the person as a person, but I am free to disagree with them. I am free to set healthy boundaries. I am free to be free in Christ.

When we honor others, we put their interests ahead of our own as appropriate. As appropriate. When a fellow family member is in need and we are able to meet that need - whatever type of need it may be - then we serve in that way.

When understood this proper way, the treatment of our spouse is because we know they are God’s child too. Marriage is God’s design, parents are God’s gift, serving one another is a blessing when done with the correct underlying motive... We do it because we value God, we value what He values, we value our spouse our marriage our parents, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We testify to the lost about Jesus because we value them - because we value their eternity.

Love God by being humble enough to honor Him in all things and because of His love for you and bestowed upon you, love others... Upon this is the entirety of Christianity... There is nothing else, if we don't get this right.

