

**WE ARE TO HONOR OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS AND FELLOW BELIEVERS**

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake..."  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

We are encouraged to respect and esteem those who are spiritual leaders among us. The Bible entreats us to honor our leaders, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine", 1 Timothy 5:17. We are to give those elders even more honor that rule over us in spiritual matters and minister unto us in Jesus' name which is giving honor unto the Lord. We honor them not for their own accomplishments, but for serving God in the Holy Spirit. We are also directed to obey our leaders in faith, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they that watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you", Hebrews 13:17. We are to obey their guidance in matters of faith and in this way we are obeying God. As with all spiritual guidance, we need to "try the spirits as to whether they are of God" with the instruction in 1 John 4:1-3. We also need to pray for our leaders for they have the same difficulties and temptations in their walk of faith as we do.

In our church groups there are a number of people who diligently labor to bring forth the Word of God unto us. First is the Pastor who faithfully preaches unto us, administers the sacraments, conducts weddings, officiates at funerals, visits, and tends to our spiritual needs with the Holy Spirit. Then we have our other speakers who also preach diligently and minister unto us to bring forth the Word as given to them by the Spirit. We have several others who serve on the church board to assure the important functioning of our outward church. We also have those who are Sunday School teachers who offer their time to teach the Bible and it's tenets to our children. These are all people who deserve our esteem and respect in the Lord. We should also remember to pray for them that God would continue to bless them with the Word.

We should also respect and honor fellow believers in the Lord, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one

another", Romans 12:10. In Philippians 2:3 it tells us "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves". We know that ultimately all honor belongs to the Lord, and in honoring His believers, we are giving honor unto Him because they are His kingdom on earth. Our fellow believers give us spiritual support and comfort when we are in need. They minister unto us the Word of reconciliation in Jesus' name whenever we need to hear that our sins are forgiven. It is comforting to talk with fellow believers and share both our griefs and joys. Because they also are imperfect and prone to sin as we are, they understand the failures and difficulties in our walk of faith. We are to esteem and prefer them greater than ourselves. When we love them, we honor them. We should also minister unto them in their time of need.

May we always continue to honor God and His believers in obedience to His Word and pray that He would continue to bless and keep us unto eternal life.

God's Peace,  
Al Wuori

Nov 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Nov 12	TBA	
Nov 19	Ken Storm	
Nov 26	TBA	Potluck meal following

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