

ESSENTIALS FOR A NEW YEAR

Definition of Essential: Absolutely Necessary; extremely important

- Don't allow things to determine your life; let **Love** define your life.

...love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'... Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

- Love **God** completely and love **others** intentionally.
- **Love** Is essential.
- How we **love** matters to God.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

To Honor others: to value, or highly esteem; to treat as weighty or valuable.

- We can't love others without **honoring** others.
Love is patient, love is kind....It (love) does not dishonor others... 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)
- Respect is based on **what you do**; honor is based on **who you are**.
- God calls us to honor and respect **everyone**.

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and **take delight in honoring each other**. Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)

If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for this? Even tax collectors love their friends. If you greet only your friends, what's so great about this? Don't even unbelievers do that? But you must always act like your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:46-48 (CEV)

- We honor others because **God** honors us.
...Why do you care about us humans? Why are you concerned for us weaklings?" You made us a little lower than you yourself, and you have crowned us with glory and honor. Psalm 8:4-5 (CEV)
God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)
- We won't honor others until our **perception** of others is changed.
Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:17 (CEV)

A perspective that honors others recognizes:

- I honor others because God **made everyone**.
- I honor others because Jesus **died for everyone**.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that **everyone who has faith in him** will have eternal life and never really die. John 3:16 (CEV)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17 (NIV)

- I honor others because it shows **I know God**.
God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. 1 John 4:8 (CEV)

Honor **sees in others** what they cannot see in themselves.

Honoring others means:

- I'm going to **honor God** so I can honor others.
My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life. We are now God's children, and we know him. 1 John 4:7 (CEV)

- I'm going to see others with **compassion**.
When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6:34 (NIV)

- I'm going to **build** others up, not tear them down.
Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

- I'm going to **serve** others before myself.
Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. Proverbs 14:31 (ESV)
For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

Honoring others allows us:

- To be the **church** God wants us to be to our community.
In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NET)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words, What does it mean to love God completely and love others intentionally?
- Do you personally find it difficult to honor others? (I'm talking about **everyone**)
- Why are people so rude in today's world? Why would this be a great time to honor others in our world?
- How does God honor us? How does that help us to honor others?
- Why do we need a changed perspective to honor others? What does that look like?
- Talk about the 3 points under the sub-heading: "A perspective that honors others recognizes:"
- How does honoring God help us to honor others? What are some ways we honor God?
- Why does compassion honor others?
- What are some practical ways we can be intentional with building others up? What are some things we can stop doing that tear others down?
- How does serving others honor them? What are some ways we can serve others during this pandemic?

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