

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Live an Honorable Life July 24 & 25, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Since the start of 2021, we've been learning *what* we believe as Christians and *why* we believe it. As we continue our When in Rome series this summer, our focus shifts to *how* we live out what we're learning. When what we believe changes how we live, we experience REAL growth!

Use our Reflection Guide for personal study throughout the week, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your community group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. Keep in mind...*it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Reflect/Respond: How were you personally encouraged, instructed or challenged by the message? This could be a word, verse or point that got your attention or got you thinking.

An Honorable Life: When we honor others, we honor God and our lives are an example, reflecting our reverence for God and encouraging others to do the same. That kind of life invites God's blessings.

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:12-13 NLT

1. Be REAL. Are you someone who willingly honors others despite their inadequacies or are you quick to criticize faults and collect offenses? Why do you think that is?
2. As you consider those in positions of authority in your life, is your behavior [words & actions] toward them honoring God?
 - o If yes, what blessings do you see in your life as a result? E.g., personal growth, healthy relationships, career success, etc.
 - o If no, which attributes – mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience – do you need to clothe yourself in?
 - o If you're not sure – ask someone you trust how they see you respond to authority and/or how you can grow.
3. Pastor Dan challenged us to "not wreck our witness by wrangling with words." (2 Timothy 2:14 NASB) We won't always agree with those in authority over us, but we can still disagree in an honorable way. What boundaries can you set to guard against your disagreement becoming dishonorable?
4. The Lord quickly forgives us, so invite Him to search your heart and show you if you need to offer an apology or forgive an offense? This may not mean reconciliation or even restoring a relationship, but rather be a way you demonstrate reverence and honor for self, God and others.

Dig Deeper Read Hebrews 4:12-13. Pastor Dan asked us if our list of pet peeves is longer than the list of Bible verses we know. When we cultivate God's word into our lives, we equip ourselves with instructions for living the honorable life. Not only will His truth help us combat annoyance and offense, but it will keep us accountable to God. If you're struggling to see the honorable way, turn to God's word and find a scripture to help you. Bonus...you'll grow spiritually wise AND relationally kind!