

IMA Video Connect every 3rd Thursday of each month at 10AM Central Time. Contact IMA Home Office for more info.

Connect with IMA on social media: Facebook, Instagram & Twitter using @imaministers

If you would like to post IMA events or articles, please send information to IMA Home Office two months in advance.

»» Announcements

Mid-Central Dist. Conference

Mon-Wed, June 21-23, 2021

Ray of Hope Church; Comanche, OK

Host Pastor: Mike McCord

Evening Speaker: Rick Van Hoose

"Taking up the Mantle" (2 Kings 2:13-14)

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Condolences to the family of **Rev. Wayne Mays**, from Hamilton, Alabama, who passed away Sunday, April 25, 2021. He started the IMA Mid-South District, served on its board and on the National Board.

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Helen Fessler, wife of Rev. Martin Fessler, passed away. Memorial services were held May 11th at Destiny Church; San Antonio, TX. She served on the mission field in Mexico with her husband for over 50 years.

"Living the Honorable Life" (From Page 1)

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Rom. 12:10). I long for the day in our culture where we return to preferring others; opening doors for people, saying Yes Sir and Yes Ma'am, Thank You and Please, saluting military service men and women, living with gratitude and high honor towards our country, praying for our pastors. We need to rediscover honor again. How do we give honor to whom honor is due?

☐ **Prioritize people.** When we fear the Lord, we reflexively honor others. When we put Him first, we will place others first.

☐ **Praise people.** You are a poet with a pen. Honor is art and has a language; and the language of honor is praise. Let it be written of you that you were an encourager and builder of God's people. Not just when they are in your presence, but when they have walked away. The truth is: God watches all of our words and actions towards people. One of the best ways to honor them is to speak consistently good of them. This is good and acceptable in God's sight.

☐ **Protect people.** Anything that you own of value, you protect. We protect the people in our lives who matter to us. We don't fight with them, we fight for them in prayer. We are honor-extenders, giving grace and the benefit of the doubt. We cover each other rather than expose them. We brag on their strengths and defend their weaknesses. We protect them in every way. This is how we honor. Every time we honor, something supernatural happens inside of us. Let's make it our aim everyday to live and give honor. It's right in the sight of our Heavenly Father and a prescription for pleasing Him!

Relational Actional Missional

Inside this Issue:

- ☐ **Guest Article:** "Living the Honorable Life"
- ☐ **Guest Article:** "HONOR: A Scriptural Truth Forgotten"
- ☐ **National Conference**
- ☐ **IMA Home Office**
- ☐ **Chairman Article:** "DNA of IMA" Part 5
- ☐ **Announcements**

National Board:

- ☐ **Dr. Timothy Warner**
- ☐ **Dr. Don Crabtree**
- ☐ **Rev. Sean Dudley**
- ☐ **Rev. Chad Hayes**
- ☐ **Rev. Dan Hernandez**
- ☐ **Rev. Kurt Juscak**
- ☐ **Rev. Mike McCord**

District Chairs:

- ☐ **Dr. Charles Dewing**
- ☐ **Rev. Paul Mason**
- ☐ **Rev. Joe Campbell**
- ☐ **Rev. Romualdo Corpuz**
- ☐ **Rev. Karrie Landsverk**
- ☐ **Rev. Julie Wells**
- ☐ **Rev. Keith Owens**
- ☐ **Rev. Jason King**
- ☐ **Rev. David Spurlock**
- ☐ **Rev. Robert Garcia**

PROCLAIM

JUNE 2021

Living the Honorable Life

By Rev. Paul Mason; Living Waters Worship Center; Seguin, TX

"My heart is stirred by a noble theme, as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer." Psalm 45:1

Honor is a noble theme and is defined as "value, worth, and weight." To dishonor is "to take something lightly;" to treat something or someone that is actually valuable as ordinary and common. Sadly, honor is becoming a lost art. The story in society now being written is one of dishonor. It's getting toxic out there. Unfortunately, the God-quality of honor is eroding and quickly vanishing from our country and people's lives; and somehow we need to grab it and put it in its proper place again. In light of Father's Day, I thought it a worthy cause to remind us why we need to rediscover the principles of HONOR. I Peter 2:17 says, "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." Here are some types of people to whom we can show honor:

1. Honor everyone. Every single person. In this social media age where people say all kinds of dishonorable things to each other; Christians contend for honoring everyone. It takes true courage to honor others in our society. However, we have to get back to esteeming others and restoring the honor ethic. If we are not careful, dishonorable speech can descend into the church. Church folk can be just as vile and vicious as the world sometimes. Rather, let it be said of God's people that we bless other leaders and churches. We pray for them and we pray that we wouldn't ever be caught up with a critical spirit. We honor the King and it's a noble thing to honor everyone.

2. The family of believers. Honor those of the household of faith. The reason we can honor other believers is because of God's claim on them. It's not how you see them, it's how God sees

them. It's amazing that God can look at someone with all their flaws and depravity and see them with perfect dignity at the same time. In the same way, by God's grace, we are to look past the dirt in others, because we are sinners too. See the dignity in the person Jesus loves, died for and has created in His image. We are not to rehearse in our minds what someone has done wrong. We should rehearse who they can be in God. God doesn't see all the sins that they have done, He sees the person that they can become in Christ. Notice that Peter writes that we are to not just show respect, but show PROPER respect... to everyone and to the family of believers. This proves to be a noble path forward. Peter also says, "Fear God and honor the emperor."

3. Those in authority. Peter wrote this when government leaders were nasty and vile people; yet he encourages us to "honor the emperor." Even if you feel like your government leader doesn't deserve it; give proper respect anyway. Thank God for all authorities in our lives. We are to pray for all who are in authority; your boss, your coach, spiritual authorities. That means your pastors, mentors, and Godly leaders. Pray for them, love them, and give them double honor. The benefits are (I Tim. 2:2-3) "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." When you are in a courtroom standing in front of a judge, you say, "Your honor" to them, regardless of their character. You honor the office they hold. This honor-filled life brings benefits and blessings.

(Continued on Pg. 4)



HONOR: A Scriptural Truth Forgotten

By Rev. Ken Benson; Savage, MN

HONOR: A high regard or great respect given, received or enjoyed; to conduct oneself with honor; something done or given as a token or act of respect (Webster).



We wonder why the nation or the world is in such a horrible condition. We need to look no further than the Word of God. If we ignore the Word, there is no hope. It teaches us on every aspect of life. Just about everyone desires to achieve honor in one way or another, but there are requirements. George Washington, our first president, said: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." Oh, how we need governing politicians and spiritual leaders to follow his example!

The way to achieve honor begins with **HUMILITY**. Proverbs 15:33; 22:4; 29:23 (NKJV) says, "Before Honor is humility" and "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor of life," and "A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor." How is honor to be achieved?

God: "So that all will give honor (reverence, homage) to the Son just as they give honor to the Father. [In fact] the one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who has sent Him" (John 5:23 AMP). "Saying in a loud voice, Worthy and deserving is the Lamb that was sacrificed to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Rev. 5:12 AMP).

Parents: "Honor (respect, obey, care for) your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged in the land the LORD your God gives you" (Exod. 20:12).

Money: "Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first

fruits of all your increase" (Prov. 3:9 NKJV).

Sabbath: "Remember the Sabbath (seventh) day to keep it holy (set apart, dedicated to God)" (Exod. 20:8 AMP)

Husbands: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (wife) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7 NKJV).

One another: "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Romans 12:10 NKJV).

False Honor: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8-9 AMP).

As ministers of the Word of God, how do we line up with these instructions? Are we teaching and preaching these to our people? As the IMA, are we upholding these principles?

As a nation, are our politicians following Biblical principles? It might be good to follow the Honor Code of the Air Force Cadets: "I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate anyone who does."

President Calvin Coolidge said, "The strength of our country is the strength of its religious convictions. The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teaching of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

It is wise for all of us to revisit the word **HONOR** and its true meaning.

Message from National Board:

We are saddened at the health-related death of our pre-scheduled National Conference speaker, Rev. Rob Carman. Our condolences to his wife and family. Through prayer and counsel of the Lord, **our tentative speaker will be Rev. Dr. Phil Brassfield**. He serves as pastor, leader, conference speaker, and life coach.

Upcoming IMA National Conf:

Place: Faith Bible Chapel; Arvado, Colorado (Denver area)

Host: Pastor Jason King

Dates: M-W, Sept. 20-22

Theme: "Encountering God"

Featuring:

- Dynamic Worship
- Evening Speaker
- IMA Trending
- Breakout Sessions
 - Dealing with Culture
 - Building from Here
 - Women's Breakout
- Panel Discussion: "In Times of Pressure"
- Celebrate Missions Service
- IMA National Business Mtg
- Tuesday Luncheon: National/District Boards
- Featuring IMA Ladies Luncheon; Wednesday



Food/fellowship provided

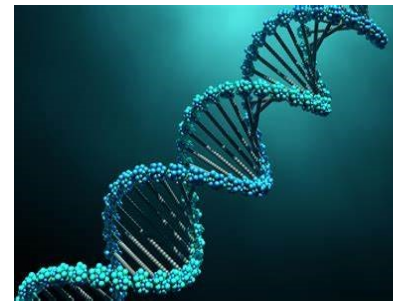
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DNA of IMA

Part 5: Cry for Freedom



By Dr. Timothy L. Warner; IMA National Chairman

Freedom in America is more precious than ever before. As out-of-control government and Big-Tech power mongers put pressure on the working class of America, the cry for freedom is louder than ever. We are told not to gather for Independence Day celebrations. For the first time in over twenty years, biker groups honoring veterans and freedom were denied access to Washington D.C.'s military monuments on the 4th of July. The problem? Some bureaucratic mobs detest freedom for the individual, patriots, and most of all, Christians.

So far, we have considered some of the DNA markings of the IMA. Today, we shall focus on the Cry for Freedom. The IMA is all about freedom: politically, nationally, spiritually, socially, and yes, ministerially.



It seems many founders of IMA came out of ministerial groups that were very legalistic, then heavy-handed. Apparently for some, the great movement of the Holy Spirit and Azusa Street Revival (1906) turned the life of Spirit into organizational control. True believers and ministers of the Gospel that knew their Bibles did not agree with "doctrines of men" that stood to threaten freedom through Christ's work on the cross, His resurrection, and the Holy Spirit!



Notice this article by IMA founder and first chairman, Rev. W. E. Kidson, entitled "Freedom-Freedom" (written in 1957). Excerpts identify DNA of IMA:

Much has been said throughout the centuries relative to freedom. There perhaps is a greater cry for freedom today than there ever has been... Freedom has been taken away from the individual.

Even countries which are classed as free, there are many restraints which put men under bondage. It has crept into the church groups. The cry still goes up as it did centuries ago, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

Since each one of us will be held accountable to the Lord for our own actions, it is very necessary that we have freedom to follow the dictates of our own conscience. Ever since man sinned in the Garden of Eden, we have been under the bondage of Satan. We contend that liberty is taken away by demonic power, as says Isaiah (58:6). "Loose the

bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, break every yoke."



Martin Luther declared his freedom from the cycles of Catholicism. Other leaders have dared to step out from the religious groups in order to satisfy their own conscience. Along with them has come a group that had the same desire. Naturally, they were the minority, but a minority with God represents a majority.

Three years ago a very small group of brethren met in Dallas, Texas. After expressing their desire to be free to follow the leadings of the Lord as they saw it, they organized what is known as the INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION. In three short years, the number has increased nearly twenty times.

The policy of this Association is that every man should contact God for himself... preach wherever he feels the Lord is calling... call any other minister that he feels is in the will of God. Brethren throughout the earth are rallying around this cry for freedom.

IMA, like the USA, was founded on freedom. The IMA National and District Boards serve the greater body of ministers. We govern under God to preserve freedom and empower ministers. We must keep our God-given freedoms.

This is one reason the IMA functions so well; we honor freedom. Updated definitions state IMA offers "resources to Spirit-filled ministers" and "promote an association of ministers who proclaim biblical truth and the gospel of Jesus Christ." Our mission is to "offer ministerial resources of covering, credentials, conferences, and to empower ministers."



As one generation leaves and another blooms for Christ, freedom will remain our heart's cry. We shall, by the help of God, preserve freedom in our Union, set captives free through ministries, declare liberty to God's people, and proclaim Christ's liberty in our pulpits. For where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty! (See II Corinth. 3:17). As IMA, we cry FREEDOM!