

A Fragrance or An Odor – Bible Study Lesson

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 (NLT)

15 Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

16 To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

A Fragrance or An Odor

If we took a brand-new garbage can, lined it with a brand new garbage bag, filled it with trash and then removed the bag, the can would look just like it did when we bought it. However, it would carry the stench of garbage. Likewise, if we took that same can, lined with a new bag and filled that bag with sweet smelling flowers and removed the bag, it would again look exactly like it did when we purchased it. However, this time it would carry the aroma of sweet-smelling flowers.

Our families are the same way. Honor has an attractive fragrance that is unmistakable. Likewise, dishonor has an odor, a repulsive stench that is terribly distinctive. One of the greatest responsibilities God has given us is to teach and model **HONOR** for our families. When we teach our families the proper principles of honor, the success of our families is inevitable.

Honor: hold in great respect, hold in high esteem, have a high regard for, reverence, respect, admire, defer to, look up to, think highly of.

Dishonor: fail to observe or respect, discredit, degrade, debase, lower, cheapen, drag down, give a bad name to, show in a bad light.

How do I teach and model honor to my family? In what ways do we show honor to them? With this in mind, let's examine: **A Fragrance or An Odor**

John 9:4 (NLT)

4 We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.

Investing quality time in each family member is vital. How we spend our time is even more important than how we spend our money. Our families are conscious of how much or how little time we spend with them. It is dishonorable to not value your family's and other people's time. **YOUR FAMILY IS HONORED WHEN YOU GIVE THEM QUALITY TIME.**

1. I honor them with my time.

Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV)

6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?

Modeling consistently honorable behavior teaches our families the importance of integrity. It is crucial to have examples of Godly character. However, even if you didn't have that kind of model, you have no excuse. **YOU SAW EXACTLY WHAT NOT TO DO.** How can you expect your kids to honor you when you don't honor your spouse or even you ex?

2. I honor them with my consistent behavior.

Isaiah 1:18 (NASB)

18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Valuing everyone enough to listen to them completely, is a gift of honor to our families. The hardest part of this is creating an environment and preparing a place safe enough for them to tell you the whole story. Could it be they don't share with you because they feel like there are conditions on your love? **SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO LISTEN COMPLETELY BECAUSE YOU WANT TO FIX IT FOR THEM. HONOR THEM ENOUGH TO LISTEN.**

3. I honor them with my complete attention.

Proverbs 12:22 (NASB)

22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

Making a commitment to honesty is a fragrance of honor to our families. One of the worse things you can do is tell your family to do as I say not as I do. How can you expect them to be honest with you and others, when they see you lie all the time? **The phone/doorbell rings. You tell them, “Say I’m not home.”** It’s not the big things. It’s the small things that start the road to dishonor.

4. I honor them with my honesty.

Matthew 6:33 (AMP)

33 But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NASB)

3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Modeling our lives after God’s order honors God and our family. Order is not a bad word. Order creates peace. It’s simply the correct arrangement of things. If you want honor and peace in your family, decide that you are going to live life according to God’s order. One of the ways to show honor is by not trying to correct upward. We are not authorized to correct upward. **That’s dishonorable and out of God’s order.**

5. I honor them with my commitment to God’s order.

Honor has an attractive fragrance that is unmistakable. Likewise, dishonor has an odor, a repulsive stench that is terribly distinctive. One of the greatest responsibilities God has given us is to teach and model **HONOR** for our families. When we teach our families the proper principles of honor, the success of our families is inevitable. Remember, Honor and Dishonor are either: **A Fragrance or An Odor.**

