



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Honouring one another

SPEAKER Ps Andrew Tan

THEME Strengthen the Family

DATE 26 & 27 May 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND TO HONOURING ONE ANOTHER

Ps Andrew Tan opened with Romans 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor”. It means to treat someone with great respect, in high esteem, to show appreciation, to applaud and praise. One of the ways we can show honour is by meeting felt needs. As men and women are created differently with different needs, we have to take the time to find out what our spouse wants, and do something to see those needs are met. Having needs met will produce the feeling of being loved, valued, and appreciated. Unmet needs make relationships unbearable and it leads to all kinds of marital problems. While we have the ability to show honour to our spouse, we must also be willing to do it.

HOW WE CAN TREAT OUR SPOUSES WITH HONOUR

1. Treat your spouse like your boss (Give Respect, Submission)

We give respect and submit to our boss in work matters, even though we could be more capable than our boss. In the same way, we should do likewise to our spouse. Ephesians 5:21 states “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Men want unconditional respect, which means he wants to be held in esteem and to be shown consideration and appreciation—even when he makes mistakes. While most women are willing to show respect, they want their men to be worthy of it. Men don’t perceive that they need to earn respect as they feel that it should be given to them. If a woman respects her husband as the head of the relationship, he will open his heart to her. Ps Tan encouraged husbands to do likewise, to respect their wives even though this may not be her top need.

2. Treat your spouse like a taxi driver (Withhold criticism and insult)

When we board a taxi, we would tell him of the place we would like to go but we don’t map out the route or yell at him to slow down if he was driving recklessly. In the same light, we should not be quick to criticize our spouse when they make a mistake. A home should be the one place where voices of criticism are silenced; where the husband or the wife is assured he/she is wonderful and competent. We frequently make the mistake of insulting our spouses in an attempt to motivate

them to change. Those criticisms create anger and frustrations which leads to disconnect and bitterness. Ephesians 4:29 and Proverbs 10:19 outlines this principle.

3. Treat your spouse like your employee (Communication)

Ps Tan elaborated the need to be clear and specific when we communicate with our spouse. We should not assume that our spouse knows what we are thinking. God gave specific instructions to Noah for building the ark, Moses for building the tabernacle and King David and Solomon for building of the temple. Ephesians 1:9 - He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him.

4. Treat your spouse like your child (Gracious and Full of Affection)

We give our children full attention regardless of how busy we are. When they make mistakes, we forgive them easily and immediately. Ps Tan strongly encouraged all husbands to give their wives love and affection (Colossians 3:12-13 and Ephesians 4:31-21). We should not be entrenched in our tasks and fulfilling responsibilities as parents such that we neglect our spouses. The biblical principle of leaving and cleaving is more than just leaving our parents; it is leaving everything and anyone that might come in between our relationship with our spouses.

5. Treat your spouse like your phone (Undivided Attention)

Just as we are so attached to our handphones, we should give undivided attention to our spouses. There is a term coined for No-Mobile-Phone-Phobia, which is called Nomophobia. We should pay more attention to our spouses than to our phones and this is something that our spouse will appreciate.

CONCLUSION

Ps Andrew Tan summarised the message by stressing the importance of relying on God's strength to love our spouse. He gave the analogy of Jews being taught since birth that Gentiles are unclean and to have nothing to do with them. However, in the book of Romans chapter 12, Paul instructed them to outdo one another in showing honour, which seemed impossible. With God's help, they were able to love, serve and honour each other in the church and those outside the church and overcome evil with good. They could offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy, pleasing and acceptable to GOD and can have sober judgment of themselves and live as one body.

Jesus taught us that if we don't die to our selfish nature, we will never be able to experience all of the blessings that God wants to bestow on us. It is virtually impossible to succeed in marriage if we do not learn how to die to the selfish part of us. Marriage for the Christian is supposed to be completely different from the consumerist mindset. The best use of our life is to invest in something that will last longer than our time on Earth. God did not put you on Earth to live for yourself. He created us to be like Christ. We know that Christ did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). When we follow Jesus, he empowers us for a life of service. The more we become like Jesus, the more we will outdo one another in showing honour and creating lasting marriages and relationships.

QUESTIONS

1. What are we commanded to do in Romans 12:10? What does it personally mean for you to 'love one another with brotherly affection' and to 'show honour to one another' (either in a marital or non-marital context)?

2. Take a few moments to pray and ask God to reveal to you an area of your marriage/relationship which you find difficult to honour your spouse/partner unconditionally. For singles, ask God to reveal to you an area which you find difficult to show love or honour towards a fellow brother or sister in Christ. What are some of the challenges you face?

3. As you submit to God the challenges which you face in the areas that He Himself has revealed to you, think of some practical steps/actions you can take/perform in the coming week as you work towards living out Romans 12:10 in your life.