



## The Presence of God: “Unalienable Honor”

*Pastor Miles McPherson / September 16, 2018*

### **Opening Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, You alone command the highest honor over all. Help us to be a reflection of that honor, Lord. Humble our hearts that we may place all others in a seat of honor. Give us an attitude of *I am second*. Keep our own desires, and even our own needs, second to the needs of those around us. Empty us of ourselves and fill us with the desires of Your own heart that we might be a useful servant in the kingdom of the most high God. Let us honor You through giving honor to all those whom You have been made in Your image. Bless them and us as we bless You and each other in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Icebreaker:**

Give some examples of how you could show love and honor to people of a different ethnicity than you.

### **Encouragement:**

Do you struggle to love and honor God’s image in yourself? Put in writing any reasons why you believe this. Tell the person next to you something about yourself that God has shown you.

### **Scriptures:**

Read and discuss the following unalienable facts and responsibilities regarding unalienable honor below and how to apply them to your life:

#### *3 UNALIENABLE FACTS*

1. It was undeservedly given to all people. Genesis 1:26-28
2. It can acknowledge itself in others. Acts 2:12-16
3. It is grieved when compromised.

#### *3 UNALIENABLE RESPONSIBILITIES*

1. Life - Our God image is a lover of people. Matthew 22:37-40
2. Liberty - Our God image is a protector of justice. Micah 6:8, Matthew 12:18
3. Pursuit of Happiness – Our God image is an investor in dreams. 2 Corinthians 1:20, Matthew 28:18-20

### **Prayer:**

Pray this prayer: *Dear Lord, I ask that You reveal to us the true nature of the unalienable image that You have given us. I want to be a person of honor, and I want to be part of a movement of honor. Help me recognize the privileges you’ve given me, and show me how to extend them to others so that I can become a more honorable person. In Your name I pray, Amen.*

**Next Steps:**

Identify one person you know of a different race or ethnicity, and list the characteristics of the image of God in them by using some of the following characteristics.

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Loving          | Benevolent                     |
| Charitable      | Tender-Hearted                 |
| Grateful        | Compassionate                  |
| Kind            | Genuine                        |
| Refined         | Sincere                        |
| Humble          | Generous                       |
| Respectful      | Not easily provoked            |
| Diligent        | Patient                        |
| Honest          | Fair                           |
| Trustworthy     | Merciful                       |
| Prayerful       | Virtuous                       |
| Hopeful         | Gentle                         |
| Optimistic      | Graceful                       |
| Faithful        | Righteous                      |
| Fearless        | Knowledgeable                  |
| Happy           | Obedient                       |
| Submissive      | Always abounding in good works |
| Trusting of God | Seek not my own                |
| Thankful        | Always acknowledging God       |

Now give that person a call, text or an email and tell them that you see these characteristics in them. And identify a particular way you can fight for justice for a group that would not be considered your "In-group".

What is one action you think God would want you to take to honor someone else's or another racial group's right to life liberty or pursuit of happiness?

**Closing Prayer:**

Thank you, Father, for searching and testing our hearts. For You alone know it. Reveal any offensive ways in us that are not leading us in the way everlasting. We often lack humility and dishonor those who do not look like us by commission or omission. We do know, Lord, that we fall short and can do nothing without You. Help us to bear the fruit that comes with honoring not only our own mothers and fathers, but by also giving honor to the mothers, fathers, and children of those we may not even know. We love You and thank You for this and every good work You alone can do *through* and *for* those who abide in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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