

CHAPTER 23

HOW TO GROW IN FAVOR WITH FELLOWMAN

- I. ONE OF THE HIGHEST TRIBUTES PAID TO JESUS CHRIST IS FOUND IN LUKE 2:52.
- A. Luke 2:52 — *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*
 - B. Although this verse primarily referred to Christ as a young boy, it is a statement that was true of Him throughout His lifetime.
 - C. Description of the qualities that attracted Him to others.
 1. He was charming and magnetic, mannerly and well-bred.
 2. He exhibited a quality of politeness, courtesy and graciousness in the way He dealt with people.
 - a. Luke 4:22 points out, *"And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth."*
 3. He was thoughtful and considerate and always had the welfare of others in mind.
 4. Jesus was humble and willing to step to the lowest level of service as demonstrated by His washing the disciples' feet and taking little children into His arms.
 5. He didn't snap back at His detractors or react in anger when insulted — He was calm, collected and always in control.
 6. He was never rude or sarcastic toward the common people of His day — but kind, merciful and gentle.
 7. He acted like a gentleman and carried Himself in a dignified manner. At the same time He was mighty in stature and spoke with the voice of authority.
 8. Jesus was poised, articulate and self-assured — yet others felt completely at ease in His presence.
 9. What He said always rang true and people knew they could totally trust Him.
 10. His countenance emanated a glow of joy and warmth and His personality reflected an aura of godliness.
 - D. In every detail, Jesus Christ expressed the nature and character of His Father in heaven.
 1. John 14:8-10 — *"Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. (9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."*
- II. THIS BRINGS US TO THE TOPIC I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS TODAY:
- A. Would you like to become the kind of person Jesus Christ was?
 - B. Would you like to know the secret of His charisma — of how He grew in favor with God and man?
 - C. You can — if you're willing to pay the price and make it one of your highest priorities.
 - D. As a matter of fact, not only should you deeply desire to become like Christ — God even commands you to.
 - E. Note these scriptures:
 1. Eph. 4:15 — *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."*
 2. II Cor. 3:18 — *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*
- III. TODAY, I'M GOING TO SHARE WITH YOU TWO SIMPLE KEYS OF CHRIST'S SUCCESS.
- A. In interest of time, I'm going to focus only on the aspect that deals with your relationship to fellow man.

B. Hopefully out of this lecture will emerge some insights and information that will help to improve your social and dating life.

IV. THE FIRST KEY IS: "REALIZE THAT YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE — HIS DWELLING PLACE ON EARTH."

A. In the Old Testament God took up residence in a physical temple built with human hands.

B. In the New Testament, He takes up residence within our earthly bodies which He calls His spiritual temple.

C. Note these scriptures:

1. II Cor. 6:16 — *"for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

2. I John 4:13 — *"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."*

3. Eph. 3:14, 17 — *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love."*

4. Rom. 8:9, 11 — *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

D. Thus, you are a vessel used by God to show the world what He is like. And what does God wish to manifest about Himself through you?

V. AND WHAT DOES GOD WISH TO MANIFEST ABOUT HIMSELF THROUGH YOU?

A. His character, nature and disposition.

B. His charm, beauty and divine glory.

C. His attributes and qualities all perfectly meshed together.

D. Note these scriptures:

1. Matt. 5:16 — *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

2. I Cor. 10:31 — *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

3. Isa. 43:7 — *"Even every one that is called by my name: ...I have created for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."*

VI. AND FROM WHAT SOURCE DO THESE QUALITIES COME THAT WILL HELP US TO GROW IN FAVOR WITH OTHERS?

A. First and foremost, from God's Holy Spirit.

B. Secondly, from God's Word, the Holy Bible.

1. Col. 3:16 — *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

C. Think of the good favor we could win if we literally obeyed every word of God — to let it richly dwell in us.

1. I Peter 3:8 — *"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."*

D. Clearly, one of our greatest privileges in life is to reflect the glory — character of God — and allow it to flow out to fellowman.

1. John 7:38-39 — *"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"*

2. Prov. 18:4 — *"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook."*

VII. THE SECOND KEY TO GROWING IN FAVOR WITH MAN IS: "HONOR EACH OTHER AS CREATED SONS OF GOD."

A. Gen. 1:26-27 — *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (27) So god created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."*

B. Consider the profound meaning and magnitude of these verses.

1. The Creator God views man as His supreme masterpiece of creation.

2. As proof of this, He crowned man with glory and honor by making him in His image and after His likeness.
 3. Even more profoundly, God made humans to eventually become sons in His family.
 4. Such an awesome claim cannot be made by any other creature.
 5. God's love for man is so vast that He sent Jesus Christ to this earth to die for him and make sonship possible.
 6. Jesus Christ Himself said that man was of greater value than anything else He had made, including the vast universe (Matt. 6:25-26).
 7. In spite of man's deplorable state, God still loves him and wishes to see him saved.
 8. Shouldn't we regard fellow human beings with the same honor and noble attitude?
 - a. 1 Pet. 2:17 — "*Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*"
- C. Isn't it especially incumbent on us to respect the dignity of each other since we're all members of the household of God?
1. According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-25, each member in the body of Christ has great value to Him and plays an indispensable role in His Church.
 2. Every person counts, even the "uncomely parts" (1 Cor. 12:23).
 3. Therefore, we should value every single member with the same degree of importance that God does.
 4. Additional scriptures:
 - a. Rom. 12:10, 16 — "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. (16) Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*"
 - b. Matt. 22:37-39 — "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*"
 5. Granted, some in God's Church may come from sub-culture conditions and backgrounds.
 - a. Even God says so.
 - b. 1 Cor. 1:26-29 — "*For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence.*"
 6. But this should never give us reason to look down on them or call them disrespectful names.
 - a. Nerd, jerk, clod, klutz, buffoon, oaf, etc.
 - b. Matt. 5:22 — "*But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*"
 7. Defiling the name and reputation of a fellow Christian is tantamount to throwing rotten eggs at the Ambassador Auditorium.
 - a. Such demeaning behavior not only besmirches a temple of God, but is much the same as taking another's life.
 - b. It is cruel and cold-hearted.
 - c. Notice why character assassination is such a damnable and deplorable act in God's eyes.
 - (1) Gen. 9:6 — "*Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*"
 8. We should strive, therefore, to upgrade the lives of less fortunate members — never look down on or treat them with contempt.
- D. Varieties of people you may come in contact with:
1. Those who are uncultured and make careless mistakes.
 2. Those with glaring faults and weaknesses — the inept, awkward and clumsy.
 3. Those who are insulting and unkind, curt and abrasive.
 4. Those whose standards and values don't measure up to ours.
 5. Those who express "holier than thou" attitudes.
 6. The insecure and self-conscious.

7. Those who shun us but never explain why.
 8. The immature crybabies or those who pout.
 9. Those from other nations and backgrounds whose culture is different from ours.
 10. Those who are emotional and unpredictable, whose actions you can never understand.
- E. Clearly, to be true Christians, we must be sensitive to and esteem God's people the way He does.
1. We must show tolerance, mercy and understanding — give them time to grow!
 2. Recognize the intrinsic worth of God's potential sons and treat them with utmost respect.
 3. Benjamin Franklin said: *"To be humble to superiors is a duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness."*

VIII. THIS NOW BRINGS US TO A POINT WHICH IF CONSCIENTIOUSLY APPLIED SHOULD IMMEASURABLY IMPROVE YOUR SOCIAL LIFE AND DATING RELATIONSHIPS.

- A. It is a principle found in II Corinthians 6:18.
- B. II Cor. 6:18 — *"And [I] will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*
- C. Note that each of us is described as being a son or daughter of our Father in heaven.
- D. Think for a moment.
1. If you had the opportunity to meet and converse with the son or daughter of an important dignitary, would the experience affect your behavior?
 2. Of course it would.
 3. You would be circumspect, courteous and polite.
 4. You would carefully guard your words so as not to offend but set the best example possible.
- E. Shouldn't we, then, give even greater honor and respect to each other as God's sons and daughters in the Church?
1. Shouldn't we express courtesy, dignity and a special kind of Christian love?
 2. Consider the difference it would make in our relationships if each of us would look on each other as princes and princesses — members of God's royal family.
 - a. I Pet. 2:9 — *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."*

IX. EVERYDAY EXAMPLES OF HOW TO SHOW PROPER HONOR TO PEERS, ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS AT AMBASSADOR COLLEGE.

- A. How a man can show honor to a woman.
1. Practice old-fashioned chivalry and treat her like a lady.
 - a. Holding a chair or a door.
 - b. Opening a car door.
 - (1) Also helping her out of the car — offer your hand and give support. (Cars are very awkward to get into and out of.)
 - (2) Be careful that her dress or coat doesn't get caught when you close the door.
 - c. Walking on outside of sidewalk.
 - d. Offering your arm.
 - e. Taking her arm when walking downstairs.
 - f. Holding an umbrella so she doesn't get wet or poked in the eye.
 - g. Helping her with her coat or sweater.
 - h. Offering your coat if she's cold.
 - i. Carrying her books.
 - j. Helping her with a heavy load.
 - k. Honoring the campus escort policy.
 2. Respect her opinions, intelligence and abilities.
 - a. Remember that God gave her a brain, too — she's quite capable of serious thinking.
 - b. Most women are perceptive and intuitive.
 - (1) They are quick to see through a facade.
 - (2) They can usually pierce through to the core of a problem and see situations for what they really are.

- (3) They are particularly adept at sizing up people.
- c. Consider her mind as a resource of common sense and practical wisdom.
3. Note her personal achievements and pay her sincere compliments.
 - a. This could cover an array of observations.
 - (1) A speech in class that was especially well-prepared and delivered.
 - (2) A new dress she's made.
 - (3) An athletic accomplishment.
 - (4) A special act of kindness.
 - b. Be sincere and don't flatter — girls can readily tell the difference.
4. Uphold her standards, morality and virtue.
 - a. Think of her as God's daughter — sweet, pure and innocent.
 - (1) For His sake and honor, as well as hers, protect her reputation, her convictions and parental upbringing.
 - (2) Avoid embarrassing her with off-color jokes, lewd innuendos, etc.
 - b. Don't get physical or carried away with sexual fantasies.
 - c. Watch that you don't violate her conscience with compromising suggestions.
 - (1) Rushing the Sabbath.
 - (2) Breaking college rules.
5. Play the role of a caring brother and give her reassurance.
 - a. Prove that you really care without ulterior motives.
 - b. Lend an ear if she needs to talk to someone to unload her anxieties and fears.
 - c. But don't preach to her and offer unwanted advice.
 - d. Give reinforcement and support when she's discouraged or going through an emotional trauma.
 - e. Don't confuse being a friend and brother with romantic intentions.
6. Make her feel special and important by being sensitive to her needs and feelings.
 - a. Recognize she's a delicate human being who is very tender and fragile.
 - b. Remember that careless remarks or strong correction can easily crush her.
 - c. She needs for you to be thoughtful, kind and gentle.
 - d. Remind her of her strengths and successes as well as the qualities that make her unique.
7. Give her your undivided attention when on a date.
 - a. Devote your time to making her happy and give her the consideration a woman deserves.
 - b. See that the date is planned around her interests.
 - (1) Discreetly get her input about places she'd like to go, or things she'd like to do.
 - (2) For example: horseback riding, hiking, going to the beach, bowling, eating at a special kind of restaurant, etc.
 - (3) Don't abandon her on the dance floor or leave her to fend for herself at a college activity.
 - (4) Introduce her to others in a group and avoid making her feel excluded when talking to friends.
8. Guide the conversation and make it stimulating and educational.
 - a. Prepare in advance — don't wing it or try to bluff your way through.
 - b. Have four or five topics to fall back on if the date starts to fall flat.
 - c. Try to relax and enjoy the occasion — but also make it a time well spent.
 - d. After all, a date represents a sizable hunk of your and her time.
 - e. Don't monopolize or overly dominate.
 - f. Insure that she shares equally in the conversation.
9. Accept her for what she is.
 - a. Remember that she is one of a kind — an original copy.
 - b. Don't try to remake her into a mold you like.
 - c. If God loves her even in an unperfected state, shouldn't you?
 - d. Appreciate her differences and don't get into a fault-finding mode.
 - e. Rejection is one of the most painful emotional experiences you could put her through.
10. Do whatever you can to help her succeed at A.C.
 - a. This might involve studying together for a test, giving suggestions for table topics, discussing a speech, or fine-tuning class notes.

- b. Be particularly supportive of the freshmen.
 - (1) Don't take advantage of their vulnerability.
 - (2) As an older student, discourage involvement if you see the girls are getting carried away.
 - (3) Play the role of big brother when they get homesick or overwhelmed.
 - c. In general, be thoughtful, considerate and service-oriented.
 - 11. Be an inspiring spiritual example.
 - a. This is not meant to advocate being sanctimonious, pseudo-religious or holier than thou.
 - b. Rather, it means being clean-cut, wholesome and well-balanced.
 - c. Think of yourself as a replica of Jesus Christ in all your relationships with the opposite sex.
 - d. Strive to be meek and humble, but strong and stable.
 - e. Be particularly concerned about personal hygiene and appearance so that you properly present yourself as a cultured ambassador.
 - f. Let the fear of God shine through your life by example and edifying speech.
 - 12. Give her the respect and courtesy she deserves as a princess.
 - a. Don't take her for granted and treat her as just another fish in the pond.
 - b. Regard her as a co-heir of the Kingdom of God.
 - c. Recognize and appreciate her awesome potential.
 - d. Treat her like a royal member of God's family and you will win her admiration and favor.
- B. How a woman can show honor to a man.
1. Allow him to fulfill his role as a leader.
 - a. Learn the art of deferring to men as God has ordained.
 - b. Don't be Miss Independent, arrogant or self-assertive.
 - c. This attitude intimidates the man, turns him off and discourages him from trying.
 - d. Allow him the opportunity to protect you and look out for your welfare.
 - (1) Opening doors.
 - (2) Choosing seats.
 - (3) Ordering at a restaurant.
 - e. Submissiveness can be described as deference to his leadership.
 2. Uphold his dignity and self-respect.
 - a. Realize that the most fragile thing about a man is his ego, his sense of self-worth.
 - b. To trample his feelings under foot is akin to emotional homicide.
 - c. You've destroyed the most sensitive and delicate aspect of his manhood.
 - d. Don't compare him to other guys and make him feel second rate.
 - e. Rather, speak and act in a manner that will build his confidence, elevate his value and self-esteem.
 3. Be responsive and help carry your part in the conversation.
 - a. Pick up on cues, weave in your ideas and ask questions that will stimulate his mind.
 - b. Watch the one- or two-word answers to questions he may pose.
 - c. Try to be lively and enthusiastic — smile, laugh and participate.
 - d. Ask for his advice or seek his opinions on current issues and topics.
 - e. Try to make dates fun and enjoyable by your own personal involvement.
 4. Give encouragement and support as a sister in Christ.
 - a. It has been said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
 - b. A more effective way to his heart is through encouragement.
 - c. Learn to read the signs of despondency — body language, facial expression, preoccupation with self.
 - d. Sometimes the best way to help is simply to listen or be a sounding-board as he airs his frustrations.
 - e. Show the concern for him that you would for a brother in your family.
 5. Show class and graciousness in awkward situations.
 - a. If a man commits an embarrassing social *faux pas*, help him to save face.
 - b. Politely point out his good traits if he should become the object of censure or gossip among your peers.
 - c. Think of Queen Elizabeth or Queen Sirikit as a model of self-control, culture and refinement — an example you should strive to emulate.
 - d. Live the role you should be playing — a royal daughter of your Father in heaven.

6. Express appreciation in special ways.
 - a. Do more than just say "thanks" at the door for an extraordinary evening.
 - b. Consider the time, money and effort the man has invested to give you pleasure and happiness.
 - c. You could design a unique card or write a poem of gratitude.
 - d. A follow-up phone call might be in order.
 - e. The main point is to acknowledge his sacrifice and thoughtfulness.
 - f. A word of caution: don't over-do this and convey the idea you're chasing him.
7. Think of him as a unique personality and express a genuine interest in his life.
 - a. Remember that just as you are an original copy, so is he.
 - b. No doubt there are many things about his family and background you would find interesting and fascinating.
 - c. Get him talking about himself or topics he feels comfortable with.
 - d. Maintain eye contact and be attentive.
8. Be aware of how your demeanor and conduct can affect him.
 - a. This covers a broad spectrum of behavior.
 - (1) Seductive clothing.
 - (2) Poor hygiene and unkempt appearance.
 - (3) Being boisterous, loud-mouthed and outspoken.
 - b. Be feminine, modest and well-bred — avoid conduct and mannerisms that might embarrass him.
 - c. Learn how to behave as a lady in all situations so that he would be proud to be with you.
9. Be spiritually minded and willing to talk about God's way of life.
 - a. Believe it or not, your interest in spiritual topics is of genuine concern to a man who's deeply converted.
 - b. He enjoys hearing you talk about lessons you've learned from a Bible class, helpful points from a sermon or insights gained from counseling with a minister.
 - c. Don't feel that you're to act the part of a skilled professor in Greek or biblical scholarship.
 - d. If your heart is really set on doing God's will, serving others and qualifying for the Kingdom, these things will be reflected in your conversation.
10. Demonstrate that your values are more than skin deep.
 - a. This has to do with goals and purposes beyond the realm of just dates, fashions and the fleeting interests of this world.
 - b. Prove to him that there's more to life than the fulfillment of carnal ambitions and pleasures.
 - c. Your stock in value will be highly increased when you speak of matters that really count.
 - d. Examples:
 - (1) Understanding people and building relationships.
 - (2) Valuable lessons learned from parents that will help steer you in right paths.
 - (3) Improving yourself, upgrading your life, developing your talents.
 - (4) Counting your blessings.
11. Strive for maturity and selflessness.
 - a. To practice the golden rule is one of the most effective ways to grow in true womanhood.
 - b. By contrast, one of the most degrading and shameful sins is to be wrapped up in self.
 - c. In all your dating relationships, strive to think outside yourself, being concerned first and foremost with the welfare of the man.
 - d. This is a quality of supreme importance in attaining true social success.
12. Treat him as a prince.
 - a. Try to view him through God's eyes — a son being groomed for His Kingdom.
 - b. Imagine how you'd act if you were given an opportunity to speak with Prince Charles of England.
 - c. Yet, the men at A.C. with whom you are privileged to associate and fellowship every day are also of royalty — but on a spiritual plane.
 - d. Even though they may fall short of the ideal expectations, resolve to show them honor and inspire them to achieve their highest potential.

X. IN SUMMARY, TO GROW IN HONOR WITH GOD AND MAN, REMEMBER THE TWO KEYS OF JESUS CHRIST'S LIFE.

A. They are:

1. You are God's temple, His dwelling place on earth.
2. Honor each other as created sons of God.

B. Think honor, practice honor, give honor.

C. If you succeed in this noble undertaking, you'll become a person worthy of receiving honor.

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