

Honoring Our Founders

1 Corinthians 16:15-18 (GWT)

You know that the family of Stephanas was the first family to be won \perp for Christ \perp in Greece. This family has devoted itself to serving God's people. So I encourage you, brothers and sisters, 16 to follow the example of people like these and anyone else who shares their labor and hard work. 17 I am glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus came here. They have made up for your absence. 18 They have comforted me, and they have comforted you. Therefore, show people like these your appreciation.

I. People of Honor are devoted.

Our Founders deserve honor because they have been **devoted** to serving God and God's people since the beginning.

Being fully devoted to whatever we do is one way we **honor** God.

Colossians 3:23 (GNT) says, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people."*

Honor is the **reward** for remaining devoted and not giving up, even when things get difficult.

II. We are to follow the example of honorable people.

Our Founders are gifts to our church, but we will only benefit from their gifts **proportionate** to the honor we have for them.

Mark 6:4-5 (CEV) says, *"But Jesus said, 'Prophets are honored by everyone, except the people of their hometown and their relatives and their own family.'⁵ Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them."*

When we honor someone, we can receive an **impartation** from them.

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV) says, *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."*

When we receive an impartation from those we honor, God will allow us to **follow** their example.

Consider *Exodus 14:21-23* and *Joshua 3:7-17*, and *1st Kings 17:17-24* and *2nd Kings 4:8-37*

III. People of Honor are to be shown appreciation.

We honor our Founders because they have left an inheritance for the next generation.

We honor our Founders because they have left a legacy for the next generation.

We honor our Founders because they have given us a firm foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NIV) says, *“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

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