

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – November 14, 2021**

**Theme:** Love: A More Excellent Way   **Topic:** Love does not dishonor others and is not easily provoked

**Main Texts:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-5; Matthew 26:47-56.

**Key verse:** 1 Corinthians 13:5 – *‘It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.’* (NIV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** According to Miriam Webster dictionary, to dishonor someone is to reduce to a lower standing in one's own eyes or in others' eyes. Another definition of dishonor is to treat in a disrespectful or demeaning manner; or to bring shame or disgrace upon another. Synonyms include to disgrace, humiliate, shame, slander, malign. Whichever way one looks at it, dishonor *‘emphasizes the loss of honor that one has enjoyed or the loss of self-esteem.’* A look at the different renditions of this *‘Love does not dishonor others ...’* is instructive in properly appreciating the issue here. For instance, the KJV renders it as *‘Doth not behave itself unseemly..’* The NKJV says love *‘does not behave rudely...’* While the NASB says love *‘does not act disgracefully...’* Others say, *‘love is not ill-mannered’, ‘doesn’t behave itself inappropriately...’*

1. (a) What are some behaviors which you will categorize as ‘inappropriate’, ‘rude’, ‘ill-mannered’, ‘dishonoring’? Why do you consider such behavior to be dishonoring or rude? (b) Who are some people we easily treat this way? (c) See 1 Peter 2:17; Ephesians 4:23-24, 29. Let participants identify some possible antidotes to this tendency to be rude.

It will be hard to be human and not have experienced rudeness or inappropriate behavior. And we most likely did not enjoy being so treated. Also, we almost certainly have been rude to others at some point or the other. When we look back to when we have been the object of dishonor, we would certainly recall it because it ignited several other emotions within us. One of which would be anger. So, apart from not being ill-mannered, 1 Corinthians 13:5 tells us that love is *not easily provoked*. Or like the Amplified Bible renders it, is not *‘overly sensitive and easily angered’* Other Bible translations say love is not *‘irritable’, ‘resentful’, ‘quick-tempered.’* Meaning that whichever end of the stick we are holding, we should let love reign – don’t dishonor others, and when dishonored, don’t get provoked!

2. (a) 1 Corinthians 13:5 speaks of this irritability in the same breath as rudeness, selfishness and keeping record of wrongs. What do you think is the connection between these behaviors (b) Think about those who easily provoke or irritate you – your spouse, children, domestic staff, colleagues, someone with an immoral lifestyle. What practical application can we draw from 1 Peter 2:17; Matthew 7:12; Colossians 4:5-6 in avoiding rudeness and provocation?

The Holy Spirit says, *“If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things God wants done.”* (James 1:20 CEV). If you are like me, my first instinct when disrespected is to shoot back. But picture the scene in Gethsemane. Our Lord Jesus Christ had just finished His last meal with His disciples. Burdened by His impending suffering and death, He went to a quiet place to pray. Unlike other times, the burden on this occasion was such that He asked for the comforting presence of His closest friends. He was so sad and troubled that He said to Peter, James and John, *“I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me.”* (Mark 14:34 CEV). But then the mood is shattered with the appearance of armed mob. And leading that mob is one of His close associates, Judas Iscariot, with whom He had shared a lot of fellowship and communion in all manner of places and conditions. I would be outraged or be broken, but not our Lord Jesus Christ!

3. Romans 8:29 tells us that we have been called to conformity to His image. (a) What can we learn about our topic today, from the way Jesus Christ handled the situation in Gethsemane in Matthew 26:46-57? (b) Isaiah 53: 2, 7 describe some character qualities of Jesus which helped Him deal with insults and anger towards others. What are these attributes? (c) Who is someone you struggle to be polite to, or who easily angers you, whom you would like to apply these lessons on? What specific application would you make towards this person in the coming days?

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**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for showing us that it is possible to be respectful to the worst of men and to keep our cool in the face of the greatest provocation. May we daily grow in humility and meekness so we can, in love, show proper respect to all. Amen.