

Honor to Whom Honor

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1 Samuel 2:30 (NKJV) *"Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' but now the LORD says, 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.'"*

Romans 13:7 (NKJV) *"Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."*

1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV) *"Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."*

Honor is a principle in the kingdom of God. Unfortunately, we live in a generation that has forgotten how to show honor to whom honor is due. We live in a time when dishonor and disrespect are found at every level:

Children dishonor their parents: "Honor your father and mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you."
(Deuteronomy 5:16 NKJV)

Young people dishonor their elders: "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:32 NKJV)

Wives dishonor their husbands: "let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:33 NKJV) and "But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head..." (1 Corinthians 11:5 NKJV)

Husbands dishonor their wives: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." (1 Peter 3:7 NKJV)

Husbands and wives dishonor marriage: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4 NKJV)

Employees dishonor employers: "Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed." (1 Timothy 6:1 NKJV)

Citizens dishonor civil authorities: "Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." (Romans 13:7 NKJV)

Church members dishonor their pastors and elders: "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." (1 Timothy 5:17 NKJV)

People dishonor their bodies: Romans 1:24 (NKJV) "Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,"

(Romans 1:24 NKJV); "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV); and "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV)

Society no longer honors God: "Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,?" (Isaiah 29:13 NKJV); "You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with grain offerings, nor wearied you with incense." (Isaiah 43:23 NKJV); and "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'" (Malachi 1:6 NKJV)

Where did disrespect and dishonor come from? It did not come from God. It came through the devil in the Garden of Eden. You can hear it in his voice, "Did God really say?" Through the fall, disrespect entered the heart of man. We are now reaping the dishonor we have sown. Isaiah 3:4-5 (NKJV) says, "I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base toward the honorable." While disrespect and dishonor are common in the world, they have found their way into the church. Attitudes, words, and actions of disrespect toward church leaders and fellow believers are a spiritual cancer that threatens to undermine the very life of the church.

What is honor? According to Webster's Dictionary, "honor" means, "a good name or public esteem; a showing of usually merited respect; a person of superior standing--now used especially as a title for a holder of high office; one whose worth bring respect or fame; a keen sense of ethical conduct." The Hebrew word for "honor" is *kabed* (Strong's #3513) that means "to be heavy, be weighty, be honorable, be glorious, be honored". The Hebrew word for "glory", *kabod* (Strong's #3519) is derived from this root. The idea of weightiness comes from the commerce of that day. Weights and scales were used to determine the value of things. Heavy metals such as silver and gold were weighed out on the scales; the greater the weight the greater the value. In spiritual sense, we honor God when we ascribe greater "weight", "glory", or "value" to Him.

Why should we show honor? It is because God demands it and blesses it. If we show honor, we will be highly esteemed. Someone once said, "Sow the honor you owe and you will reap the honor you sow." Jesus said, "If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor." (John 12:26 NKJV)

On the other hand, if we show disrespect and dishonor, we will be lightly esteemed. Proverbs 18:12 (NKJV) says, "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility." Proverbs 13:18 (NKJV) says, "Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored."

The people and things that we despise we will eventually lose. Esau despised his birthright and lost it. Eli did not honor the LORD and lost his sons, the priesthood, and his life. Michal did not honor her husband, King David, and was dishonored through barrenness. The people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth despised Him and lost Him as God's Prophet: "So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.'" (Matthew 13:57 NKJV) The moment we stop showing honor to those we owe honor is the moment we bring dishonor upon ourselves.

We are responsible to show honor to all who are due our honor. Who are those in your life to whom you owe honor? Are they openly receiving from you the honor and respect they deserve or are they being dishonored by either neglect or by disrespectful attitudes, words, and actions? God will not overlook dishonor and disrespect. It is time to repent of all dishonor and disrespect. If you will sow honor into the lives of those to whom honor is due, you will reap a harvest of honor from God. If you refuse, then don't be surprised when you find yourself being lightly esteemed by God.

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