

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

6. HONOUR

Honor is the highest level of respect. It is the recognition of authority by submission through external actions of obedience and it also exudes from the depths of the heart. It mixes gratitude, respect, admiration and reverence; it is the response to love in its maximum expression.

Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands! 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.3 They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever.

Salms 112:1-3 NLT

The Bible frequently refers to honoring God as “fear of God”, however this does not refer to the fear of punishment but to the fear of damaging the relationship we have with God. This is the fear of losing the intimacy of the heart with the Heavenly Father, with the source of life and with our origin.

Honor is given out of obedience by recognizing someone for what they represent and for who they are but not for what they do. For example: parents are honored because they are the representation of God on Earth; this is an order and it is mandatory. This honor is not based on whether they did it right or wrong in our opinion; only on the fact that they are our parents and the Lord orders it. Everything that comes from heaven comes down through channels of authority and God established our parents to be those channels. Rather than dishonoring them and speaking ill of them for what they have done wrong, we must forgive them and pray for them. It's only through us crying out for revelation and understanding that enables the blessings and not the curses to begin to reach us through them. Honoring our parents implies that their mistakes no longer bring bad consequences to us but on the contrary, our honor causes God's mercy to bring blessings to us; His design.

»“Honor your father and mother.

Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Exodus 20:12 NLT

It also commands us to honour spiritual leaders because they are also the channels arranged by God to bless our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT

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In the case of civil authorities, it does not command us to honor them but it does warn us that instead of speaking ill of them and cursing them with our words; we need to respect them and that we must submit and pray for them because it is through the authorities that good or bad reaches their subordinates.

Although honor is given through obedience, it cannot be demanded. We should earn it by the way we honor our authorities and by the way we serve others, giving our lives for them and how we exercise our authority, (fatherhood), over others.

Regardless of our experience, knowledge, or position; the culture of the Kingdom of heaven is a culture of honor. Even when we are in high levels of authority, we are called to live a life that honors those who according to the word of God should be honored. In the Kingdom of heaven, the highest level of honor is towards God. We honor Him for who He is and for His great love for us. Our honor to the King is manifested in the way we live.

Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT

Study Questions

1. How is honor defined according to the text?
2. What is the relationship of honor with respect, obedience and recognition of authority in different areas of life?
3. According to the Scriptures cited, why is the importance of honoring parents and spiritual leaders emphasized?
4. How can honor positively affect the lives of those who practice it?
5. How is the idea of honoring civil authorities addressed according to the text and what is the instruction given for those who have differences or disagreements with these authorities?
6. How can honor influence the relationship between people and authorities in society?

