

Biblical Honour (Part 1)

An Introduction to Biblical Honour

Biblical honour: the value and weight willingly assigned to something or someone.

What price do you put on your marriage, your pastor, your prayer life etc?

1. We are called to create a culture of honour

Romans 12:10 (NASB)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour;

(KJV) Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

(Holman Bible) Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honour.

(International Standard Version) Be devoted to each other with mutual affection. Excel at showing respect for each other.

2. We are called to give special honour to those doing the Lord's work well

Phil 2:28-30

²⁸ *Therefore I am all the more eager to send him (Epaphroditus), so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.* ²⁹ *So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honour people like him,* ³⁰ *because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.*

Entimos – precious, honourable in rank, valued highly.

1 Tim 5:17-18

¹⁷ *Elders who lead effectively are worthy of double honour, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸ *For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and, "The worker is worthy of his wages."...*

NLT Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching.

3. Familiarity and offence erode a culture of honour

Matthew 13:55-57

⁵⁵ *Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?* ⁵⁶ *Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at Him But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his hometown and in his own household."*

4. Honour is communicated through giving your best

Mal 1:6-8

⁶ *"A son honours his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you priests who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' "* ⁷ *"By offering defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "* *"By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. "* ⁸ *When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not*

wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty.

5. Honour can be communicated through thanksgiving and sacrificial giving

Proverbs 3:9

Honour the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;

Psalm 50:2

"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honours Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."

The sacrificial offering must be accompanied by a Godly lifestyle.

6. You honour God when you are gracious to His creation

Proverbs 14:31

He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honours Him.

I honour you when I treat your offspring well.

7. True honour must come from the heart

Isaiah 29:13 – 14

¹³ *The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."^[a] ¹⁴ *Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."**

Sadly this happens when we flatter people but don't mean it from the heart.

8. There are things that unlock honour for you personally

a. Honouring God unlocks honour for you

- a. **1 Samuel 2:30** *"Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the LORD declares, 'Far be it from Me-- for those who honour Me I will honour, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.*

b. Doing good will unlock honour for you

- a. **Romans 2:9-11** *There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honour and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God*

c. Serving Jesus unlocks honour for you

- a. **John 12:26** *"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.*

d. Humility unlocks honour for you

- a. **Proverbs 18:12** *Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility goes before honour.*
- b. **Proverbs 15:33** *The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honour comes humility.*
- c. **Proverbs 29:23** *A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honour*
- d. You can obtain things in the spirit through certain weapons of righteousness. Humility is a weapon of righteousness. It's a force in the spirit realm.

e. Graciousness unlocks honour for you

- a. **Proverbs 11:16** *A gracious woman attains honour, And ruthless men attain riches.*

f. Receiving correction unlocks honour for you

- a. **Prov 13:18** Poverty and disgrace [come to] those who ignore instruction, but the one who accepts rebuke will be honoured.

International Standard Version

Poverty and shame are for those who ignore correction, but whoever listens to instruction gains honour.

- b. If you have messed up it does not mean that's the end for you. Rather be a person who accepts rebuke. Many people run away when rebuked and sadly they go deeper into their sin.

g. Listening to your leaders unlocks honour for you

Prov 27:18 *Whoever tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit; so he who patiently and faithfully guards and heeds his master shall be honoured.*

h. Loyalty unlocks honour for you

Proverbs 21:21 *He who pursues righteousness and loyalty Finds life, righteousness and honour.*

Please note that this is not blind loyalty but righteous loyalty

9. God is the source of true honour

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honour come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Stop trying to manufacture honour for yourself. Allow God to do it. This applied to Jesus in His priestly ministry.

Hebrews 5:4-5

⁴ *No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.* ⁵ *So also Christ did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but He was called by the One who said to Him: "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father."...*

2 Peter 1:17

He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

John 5:41, 44

"I do not accept glory from human beings,... How can you believe if you accept glory from one another, yet do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"

Jesus received honour from the Father

In this passage we see the use Dokeo (GK). Opinion, praise, honour and glory.

10. God can turn your shame into honour.

Your current reality is not fixed. Things can change.

Zephaniah 3:19-20

"Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth. "At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes," Says the LORD.

11. We are called to honour our parents

Exodus 20:12

"Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

12. Marriage must be honoured by all

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is to be held in honour among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- Fornication is a sign of dishonouring marriage.
- Adultery and crossing boundaries with someone who is married demonstrates that you do not honour marriage
- Honour is not limited to people but certain institutions such as marriage.
- We must honour other people's marriages and our own marriages.
- Divorce is higher by 33% when people first live together before getting married.

13. Be careful of misplaced honour

Proverbs 26:8

Like one who binds a stone in a sling, So is he who gives honour to a fool.

Proverbs 26:1

Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, So honour is not fitting for a fool.

We live in a society that gives double honour to the wrong people (e.g. musicians with destructive lyrics and sportsmen with debauched lifestyles) and dishonours those they should be honouring.