

Biblical Honour (Pt 2)

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

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

I like some of the biblical definitions of the verb to honour: *To make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour, to impart glory to something, render it excellent and illustrious, make renowned, cause the dignity and worth of someone to be acknowledged.*

1. We are to honour God

We have done a whole series on glorifying God but here are a few ways of communicating honour to God:

You honour the Lord by prioritizing His agenda in your giving

Prov 3:9

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

You honour God by consulting Him on big decisions

Prov 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

You honour God by how you use your body

1 Cor 6:18-20 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁸ Don't be immoral in matters of sex. That is a sin against your own body in a way that no other sin is. ¹⁹ You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own. ²⁰ God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honour God.

You honour God by prioritizing your time with Him

Ps 84:10

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

You honour God by valuing His Word

Ps 19:9b-10

⁹ The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey,

2. We are to honour one another

(Especially other believers)

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;

Here are some practical ways we honour fellow believers:

We honour each other by practising hospitality with a cheerful heart

1 Pet 4:8-9

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

We honour each other by restoring each other gently

Gal 6:1

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

We honour each other by doing good to each other

Gal 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

We honour each other by judging matters internally

1 Cor 6:1-6

¹ Suppose one of you wants to bring a charge against another believer. Should you take it to ungodly people to be judged? Why not take it to the Lord's people? ² Or don't you know that the Lord's people will judge the world? Since this is true, aren't you able to judge small cases? ³ Don't you know that we will judge angels? Then we should be able to judge the things of this life even more! ⁴ So suppose you disagree with one another in matters like this. Who do you ask to decide which of you is right? Do you ask people who live in a way the church disapproves of? Of course not!

⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that no one among you is wise enough to judge matters between believers?

⁶ Instead, one believer goes to court against another. And this happens in front of unbelievers!

This can only take place where we have effective church governance for such matters.

3. We are called to honour older people

We live in a society that is trying to avoid getting old. At a subconscious level this can affect how we relate to the aged. However, the Bible views old age differently:

Psalm 92:12-14

But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"

Proverbs 16:31

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is obtained by following a righteous path.

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of the young is their strength; the gray hair of experience is the splendour of the old.

Externally they might look frail but inwardly there is often a wonderful work the Lord has been doing.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

¹⁶ That is why we are not discouraged. Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day.

¹⁷ Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine.

God still uses people in their old age. We need to hear their testimonies.

Psalm 71:18-19

¹⁸ Now that I am old and my hair is gray, don't leave me, God. I must tell the next generation about your power and greatness. ¹⁹ God, your goodness reaches far above the skies. You have done wonderful things. God, there is no one like you.

There are a number of ways you can honour older people:

Watch how you correct them

1 Tim 5:1-2

¹ Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Demonstrate respect through your body language

Leviticus 19:32

"Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the LORD.

Humble yourself before them

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Defer to them

Job 32:4

Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because they were older than he.

Don't dominate the conversation

Seek their counsel

1 Kings 12:6

There were some older men who had helped Solomon make decisions when he was alive. So King Rehoboam asked these men what he should do. He said, "How do you think I should answer the people?"

4. We are called to honour our parents

Exodus 20:12

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

Matthew 15:4

"For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'

1 Tim 5:3-4, 8

³ Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁸ Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Just because you are now an adult does not mean you must not consider your parent's advice. Don't despise them because of their age.

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

How would you like your children to treat you one day? Treat your parents like that today.

Matthew 7:12

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

What are some practical ways of honouring your parents?

- Ask for their wisdom on matters
- Update them on important events in your life
- Communicate with them relevant matters
- Be patient with them as they age
- Bless them financially and materially
- Help them physically as they age
- Guard your mouth

5. We are called to honour children

Here are some practical ways in which we can show honour to children:

Honour the unborn child**Ps 139:13-16**

¹³ *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.* ¹⁴ *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* ¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.* ¹⁶ *Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

Exodus 21:22

“If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide.

See children as a source of joy**3 John 1:3-4**

³ *For I was overjoyed when the brothers came and testified about your devotion to the truth, in which you continue to walk.* ⁴ *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

Make children feel included and welcome**Mark 9:37**

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Mk 10:13-14

¹³ *People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.*

¹⁴ *When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

How many of you grew up in families where you were told, “Children must be seen not heard.” If so, how did this affect you?

Don't despise them

Mt 18:10

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

See them as a blessing

Ps 127:3-5

³ Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Prov 17:6

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Sadly we live in a society that does not appreciate the blessing of children. Children are often seen as an inconvenience or an expense.

Don't lead them astray

Mt 18:1-6

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶ "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Protect them

Heb 11:23

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

In child development there is protection and preparation. Parents ought to know how to protect the moral innocence of their children.

Don't provoke them to anger

Col 3:21

Fathers,^[a] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

This speaks of provoking your children or exasperating them.

Facilitate their purpose development

Prov 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, ^[a]And when he is old he will not depart from it.

We are not trying to live out our dreams through them. We respect their uniqueness. We have healthy boundaries with them and allow them to express what is theirs to express. Purpose development takes place through biblical instruction and releasing them into their God-given calling. Remember, there is no baby Holy Spirit. God wants to use the next generation. Let's honour that.

All of these are ways of demonstrating honour to children.