

# HONOR FROM A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE *Part 2*

We've been talking to you about honor, but not just any honor. We've been talking to you about *HONOR FROM A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE!* In other words, we're talking about interpreting honor from a biblical lens or view point.

When we examine honor in the Bible we learn that honor is about recognizing the dignity and worth of a person. Also, we honor someone by obeying them, speaking well of them and carry ourselves in a way that best represents them.

Also, when we honor from a biblical perspective we learn to honor ALL men, not just those who honor us, or those we feel are worthy of honor. To put it another way, when we learn to honor men God's way, we'll STOP operating in...

#1 — **RECIPROCAL HONOR** ("I honor those who honor me")

#2 — **MERIT-BASED HONOR** ("I honor those who earn my respect")

#3 — **TRANSACTIONAL HONOR** ("I show honor when it benefits me")

Instead, we have to honoring EVERYONE who stands in a position of authority, *regardless* of their virtue or goodness.

## **1 Peter 2:17, 18**

***17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.***

***18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.***

Notice, we're to honor everyone in authority, even the "froward" (immoral, unjust)! There are some who feel that to honor someone who's not worthy of your honor (either because of their character or lack of achievement) cheapens honor and makes it meaningless. The bible, however, disagrees with this opinion.

## **Acts 23:1–5**

***1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. 2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. 3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? 4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? 5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.***

Notice, even though the high priest was acting unrighteously, Paul still affirmed that he was deserving of honor!

This passage also raises a legitimate question: What do you do when feel your authority is being threatened or someone dishonors you? Should you do what this high priest did and retaliate (i.e. use force to defend your honor)?

You know, there was a time when a man would defend his honor by challenging another man to a duel! Are we to do this today?

**Romans 12:10**

***10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;***

***Romans 12:10 Holman Christian Study Bible***

***10 Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor.***

Notice, we're not to be competing to RECEIVE honor and we're to be competing to GIVE honor. While seizing honor for oneself may be considered acceptable behavior in society, it's not acceptable in the kingdom! In the kingdom, seizing honor for oneself is considered an act of pride or *conceit*.

**Romans 12:16**

***16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.***

In this context, "minding high things" includes grasping for honor or status. Moreover, Paul says that this kind of behavior (ambition) is considered 'proud' (conceited) in the kingdom. Again, we're supposed to be competing to give honor, not to receive or seize it.

**Romans 12:17**

***17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.***

The "evil" spoken of here isn't necessarily *physical* attacks. When Paul talks about "evil" he's talking about attacks against your person (micro-aggressions). In other words, insults, disrespect disguised as jokes, slander or anything that is intended to marginalize or dishonor you. Moreover, he's saying that we are not to retaliate against such attacks or try to defend our honor.

(I'm convinced that most of the negative responses we have towards other people are really our way of trying to protect our reputation and honor!)

But, this is not the biblical way (nor the KINGDOM WAY) to respond to dishonor. The right way to respond to dishonor is not to retaliate (return evil with evil). No, the right way to respond to dishonor is to respond with kindness and generosity.

### **Romans 12:18, 20**

***18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.***

***20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.***

Notice, Paul encourages believers to respond to dishonor with kindness and generosity. And, in this case, generosity can be seen as a form of honor because when you show kindness and generosity to others you are recognizing the dignity that is in them.

Thus, we might say that the right way to respond to dishonor (restore honor) is to...

## **HONOR OTHERS**

We must learn to honor all men, particularly those who refuse to honor us. If we simply REACT to dishonor with retaliation, then we will simply ESCALATE the dishonor. If we learn to honor those who dishonor us (by showing them kindness), then we will DEESCALATE (or break) the cycle of dishonor.

### **Romans 12:21**

***21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.***

Notice, you don't overcome 'evil' (or dishonor) with more dishonor. You overcome dishonor with 'good' (mercy and kindness). This is what the Bible means when it says, "Honor others rather than yourselves".

### **Philippians 2:3 New Century Version**

***3 When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide.***

***Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves.***

## **TRUST GOD**

We also have to let God defend our honor.

### **Romans 12:19**

***19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.***

Again, we're not supposed to be trying to seize honor for ourselves, NOR are we to be trying to 'avenge' our own honor. Instead, we're supposed to entrust the defense (vengeance) of our honor to God!

**1 Peter 2:20–23**

***20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:***

Notice, we're expected to be "*patient in suffering.*" This means, we're expected to continue to *do well* and honor others DESPITE being dishonored (or reviled) ourselves. Also, we're expected to commit the *defense* of our honor to God!

Saints, we must learn to walk in true biblical honor. We must learn to honor those who are in authority regardless of their merit or goodness. God is even requiring us to honor those who dishonor us and allow Him to defend our reputation/honor.