

Honor System:

1 Samuel 2:30 (HCSB) *“Therefore, this is the declaration of the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Although I said your family and your ancestral house would walk before Me forever, the Lord now says, “No longer!” I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disgraced.”*

(GW) **“Therefore, the Lord God of Israel declares: I certainly thought that your family and your father’s family would always live in my presence.**

“But now the Lord declares: I promise that I will honor those who honor me, and those who despise me will be considered insignificant.

God’s Honor System: God turns people who know nothing about living free, nothing about being the ‘master of your own destiny’, people who didn’t have to make decisions because they had always been told what to, into the greatest, freest nation on the earth starts with Honor System. The 10 Commandments start with 5 commandments about honoring God. Notice the ‘swing commandment’, where the way to live shifts from Honor God to how we treat others begins with the “Honor” (Honor your mother and father...)

The Story of Eli. A system gone awry. A life meant to have great impact that loses all its influence because the Honor System broke down. He ‘honored’, but his honor was out of order! **(Vs. 29: Why do you honor your sons more than me...)** he was honoring his sons (out of order) based on ‘love’ (gotta watch that one). He didn’t want to lose them or push them away. He lost them forever because of a bad honor system.

The Honor System actually equips you for living a significant and fulfilled life. **2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)** *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

Examples:

Jesus says not my will but yours = Honor system working.

Paul’s life after his salvation experience—He ends with basically saying, “I did not dishonor the One for whom I live.” “I fought the fight, I ran the race...I was not disobedient to the Heavenly vision...”

The key to keeping the Honor System from both examples:

What’s the WIN? **What’s Important Now:**

For Jesus: The WIN wasn’t escaping pain or death—it was saving us!

When Paul stood before people who held his freedom in their decision, his very life, what was his W.I.N.? It wasn’t winning his freedom or having his life spared. It was the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Honor is always about What's Important Now (WIN). How we respond and what we choose to honor will reveal our WIN. What weighs the most is what we will honor!

Romans 13:8 (RSV) "Give...honor to whom honor is due."

- **Who or what are we honoring that should not be honored?** *Psalm 66:18 (CEV) "If I had cherished evil in my heart, my Lord would not have listened."* This is not written by someone who has not sinned—it is written by David. He sinned, but he did not 'cherish' sin—he didn't 'honor' it by giving it weight.
- **Who or what are we not honoring that should be honored?**
- The order of honor shifts, often determined by the season of life. "Honor your mother and father" is always in season, but "a man shall leave his mother and father and become one with his wife" means I honor her. There was a time when I had to challenge my parents, especially my mom, about not honoring my wife. *1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) "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."*

LIVE IT: The Honor System at work in my life this week:

Honor God. Obedience and righteousness

Honor Jesus. The Kingdom, The Word, "With Him instead of 'for' Him"

Honor the Holy Spirit. (Keep in step...) Honesty (Spirit of Truth), Humility

Honor each other. *Romans 12:10 (HCSB) "...Outdo one another in showing honor." (VOICE) "...Be first to honor others by putting them first."*

When the Trinity is the weightiest thing in your life, they can support everything else. When anything else is the weightiest, the rest of our life becomes unstable.