

Honor

“What is Honor” – 1 Samuel 2:30 November 13, 2022

Honor <i>A Study of What The Bible Says About Honor</i>		
Date	Message Title	Text
Nov 13	What is Honor	1 Samuel 2:30
Nov 20	The Focus of our Honor	1 Peter 2:17
Nov 27	The Challenge of Honor	Rom. 12:9-13
Dec 4	Honoring Authority	Rom. 13:1-7
Dec 11	Leaving a legacy of Honor	2 Tim. 2:20-21

1 Samuel 2:30 *Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now the Lord declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*

1 Timothy 1:17 *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Hebrews 13:18 *Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things*

Proverbs 21:21 *Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.*

hon·or / ˈänər/ noun

1. high respect; great esteem.
2. adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct.
3. something regarded as a rare opportunity and bringing pride and pleasure, a privilege.

verb

1. regard with great respect.
 2. fulfill (an obligation) or keep (an agreement).
- Historians and scholars have pointed out that one of the cultural dynamics at work in the Mediterranean world in biblical times was that of honor and shame. Public honor was an important cultural value. Public shame was devastating.

- We often think of honor and shame as indicative of Eastern cultures. During an economic downturn in Korea some years ago, many businessmen lost their jobs. Instead of telling their families and thus bringing shame on them, they still got up and dressed for work each morning, only to spend the day walking the trails at a nearby national park. We cannot overlook the power of honor and shame in many cultures of the world, modern and ancient.
- What do these ancient and Eastern cultural dynamics have to do with the church in the modern Western world? First, it is important to see that all societies are a mixture of cultural dynamics. Even if it is true that Westerners are influenced more by personal guilt than public shame, this does not mean that concepts of honor and shame are absent in the West.
- Second, biblical teaching on honor transcends any particular time and culture. Honoring the Sabbath, marriage, and father and mother reflect God’s eternal character and commandments. These institutions were established at creation, and thus they have enduring significance. Furthermore, biblical commands to honor others do regularly go beyond cultural norms. Paul tells Timothy to “honor widows” in a culture that typically did not (1 Tim. 5:3). He also exhorts Timothy not to let anyone despise his youth in a time and place that honored elders as examples of wisdom and virtue (4:12).
- The biblical emphasis on honoring others has everything to do with the biblical command to honor God. God fashioned human beings in His image. When we honor others, no matter who they are, we honor God. As we honor God, we increase His esteem in the world and attest to His ultimate value.

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