

Honour in the Kingdom

What is Biblical Honour?

“Most occurrences of honor in the Old Testament are translations of some form of *kabod*, while in the New Testament they are derivatives of *timao*.”

“The root of *kabod* literally means heavy or weighty. The figurative meaning, however, is far more common: “to give weight to someone”. To honor someone, then, is to give weight or to grant a person a position of respect and even authority in one's life.”

“While honor is an internal attitude of respect, courtesy, and reverence, it should be accompanied by appropriate attention or even obedience.”¹

“The source of all honor is God on the basis of his position as sovereign Creator and of his character as a loving Father.”²

“The granting of honor to others is an essential experience in the believer's life. Christians are to bestow honor on those for whom honor is due.”³

In the Kingdom, honour has nothing to do with submission, subservience, debasing ourselves before others or pride in demanding to be honoured. It is about seeing others as God sees them and responding appropriately. It's an expression of the heart where we defer to others and elevate them above ourself. Honour really must come from a heart attitude.

Honour is co-dependent with discipline and punishment. Honour does not negate discipline and punishment, but chastisement and penalisation must be done with honour.

*“The clear fruit of establishing a culture of honor is that the resurrection life of God begins to flow into people's lives, homes, and communities, bringing healing, restoration, blessing, joy, hope, and wholeness. If we are not seeing this fruit, then we must ask ourselves whether we are truly honoring those around us as we ought...I am convinced that there are some patterns of relating in the Church that are based on false versions of who people are, and we must confront and dismantle these if we hope to see abundant life growing in our midst.”*⁴

Here are some scriptural directions regarding honour.

Honour Our Heavenly Father

Malachi 1:6 (NKJV)

“A son honors his father, And a servant his master.
If then I am the Father, Where is My honor?
And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence?
Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name.”

1 - Above 3 quotes from www.biblestudytools.com

2 - [ctd] God the Father has bestowed honor on his Son, Jesus Christ (John 5:23). He bestowed honor on humanity by creating man a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5-6). He has also created spheres of authority within human government, the church, and the home. The positions of authority in those spheres are to receive honor implicitly.

3 - [ctd] The believer is to honor God, for he is the sovereign head of the universe and his character is unsurpassed. The believer is to honor those in positions of earthly authority, such as governing authorities (Rom 13:1-7), masters (1 Tim 6:1), and parents (Exod 20:12). As a participant in the church, the believer is also called to honor Jesus Christ, the head of the church (John 5:23), fellow believers (Rom 12:10), and widows (1 Tim 5:3).

4 - “Life flows through honour” - ‘Culture of Honor’ (Danny Silk) p:27

Seek Honour from Father

Romans 2:5-7, 10 (NKJV) – “...the righteous judgment of God, who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;...but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Honour The Lord Jesus

John 5:23 (NKJV) – “He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

Father God Honours His Sons

John 12:26 (NKJV) – If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Honour Your Father & Mother

Ephesians 6:2 (NKJV) – “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

Honour Those Deserving Honour⁵

Romans 13:7 (NKJV) – Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Honour Your Church Elders

1 Timothy 5:17 (NKJV) – Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

Honour the Saints

Romans 12:10 (NKJV) – Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

Honour The Weaker Members of the Body

1 Corinthians 12:23-26 (NKJV) – And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our representable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Honour True Widows

1 Timothy 5:3 (NKJV) – Honor widows who are really widows.

⁵ - Eg: receive a prophet with honour (Matt 10:41)

Honour Your Wife

1 Peter 3:7 (AMP) – In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God’s unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]

Honour is Not to be Sought⁶

Luke 14:7-8 (NKJV) – So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him;

OTHER INTERESTING POINTS

Mankind Has Inherent Honour

Hebrews 2:6-8 (AMP) – It has been solemnly and earnestly said in a certain place⁷, What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man⁸ that You graciously and helpfully care for and visit and look after him? For some little time You have ranked him lower than and inferior to the angels⁹; You have crowned him with glory and honor and set him over the works of Your hands, For You have put everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to man, He left nothing outside [of man’s] control. But at present we do not yet see all things subjected to him [man].

Honour All People

1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV) – Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God...

Honour Your National Leader

1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV) – ...Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Honour Your Earthly Master

1 Timothy 6:1 (NKJV) – Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

Honour Your Own Body

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NIV) – you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NKJV) – For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification

6 - While the reception of honor is a positive experience, it is not to be sought (Luke 14:7-8). When honor comes from others by reason of position or status, it is not to be taken for granted. The recipients should seek to merit honor through godly character. Honor can be lost through disobedience or disrepute, though in exceptional cases, dishonor is a mark of discipleship (2 Cor 6:8).

7 - Psalm 8:5-6

8 - Ben Adam (See use in Ezekiel 8)

9 - Elohim (heavenly beings)

and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (AMP) – For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): that you should abstain and shrink from all sexual vice, That each one of you should know how to possess (control, manage) his own body in consecration (purity, separated from things profane) and honor, Not [to be used] in the passion of lust like the heathen, who are ignorant of the true God and have no knowledge of His will,

A Woman Can Dishonour Her Husband

1 Corinthians 11:5 (AMP) – And any woman who [publicly] prays or prophesies (teaches, refutes, reproves, admonishes, or comforts) when she is bareheaded dishonors her head (her husband); it is the same as [if her head were] shaved.

Self Honour is Worthless

John 8:54 (NKJV) – Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God...”

Honour From Men Shouldn't have Affect on Our Work for the Kingdom

2 Corinthians 6:4, 8 (NKJV) – “But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: ...by honor and dishonor,”

Dishonour Comes From Lust

Romans 1:24 (NKJV) – Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Honour is Regained With Purity

2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NKJV) – But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 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.

~~~(simple examples over page)~~~

## SIMPLE EXAMPLES OF KINGDOM HONOUR

1. A child submits to their parents to be 'grounded' for an infraction without being critical of their parents or having thoughts of hatred towards them.
2. You don't criticise the boss at work for his decisions when you'd like things done differently.
3. Being in a meeting, you listen intently and remain silent. Without making any comments you wait until question time even though you may really want to interject.
4. You allow a person to explain their circumstances to you so you understand their condition, without giving them advice when they haven't asked for it.
5. As an employee, you turn up to work on time, you take the specified periods of time for breaks, and you leave at the designated time.
6. As an employee, you use your time profitably at work, focussing totally on your employer's business.
7. When you borrow someone's equipment you treat it nicely, as if it was your own – or treat it better.
8. When you are on someone else's property you leave the location as you found it – especially doors and gates.
9. Within the bounds of righteousness and propriety, you allow others to be themselves with all their idiosyncrasies.
10. A wife doesn't try to dominate her husband or usurp his position of spiritual head of the family.
11. While in someone else's home or on their property you abide by their rules and customs.
12. As a man in a workplace where ties are expected to be worn by men, you embrace ties and offer no resistance whatsoever to wearing one.
13. You give the best of your vegetable produce to the Lord by giving away the best and keeping the less-than-perfect for yourself.
14. When you are driving in a private carpark you adhere to the traffic signs and rules.
15. A child doesn't touch something that is out of bounds to them – not out of fear of punishment, but because they want to please their supervisor.
16. You operate in the sphere authority given you by your overseer in an organisation, but when you are in the presence of your overseer you instinctively allow them to make the decisions and give the orders.

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