

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

07 – Honor

GOD'S PEOPLE belong to TWO FAMILIES



FOUR PARENTS?

AND I THOUGHT I WAS CONFUSED!

WE'RE NOT CONFUSED... AND THIS SCRIPTURE PASSAGE PROVES IT!

HOW CAN THAT BE?



"I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."
Luke 7:28 (NIV)

GOD'S PEOPLE belong to TWO FAMILIES or KINGDOMS

"I tell you, among those **born of women** there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least **in the kingdom of God** is greater than he."
Luke 7:28 (NIV)

- **ALL HUMANS:**
 Are you among those who are "**born of women**"?
 If you're a human, then YES!
- **ONLY THE SAVED:**
 Are you "**in the kingdom of God**"?
 Only if you have been "born again"!

ON THE "SCALE OF GREATNESS":

MOST
 LEAST

• The **least** important person in the Kingdom of God (those who have received **spiritual** birth).

... IS GREATER THAN ...

• The **most** important person in the world (those who have received **physical** birth).

ON THE "SCALE OF GREATNESS":

MOST
 LEAST

• The **least** important person in the Kingdom of God – will **LIVE FOREVER** and **GAIN** everything God offers.

... IS GREATER THAN ...

• The **most** important person in the world – will **DIE** (and never return to this life) and **LOSE** everything he had.

THIS MEANS...



[DRUM ROLL
TO BUILD
EXCITEMENT!]

NO MATTER HOW UNIMPORTANT WE MAY
BE IN THE WORLD (our original family) ...

ALL MEMBERS
OF GOD'S FAMILY
(our second family) HAVE VALUE!
ALL OF US ARE IMPORTANT!
THEREFORE...

THEREFORE,

in the family of God...



[EVEN MORE
EXCITEMENT!]

ALL of us need to treat each other
as
VALUABLE!

Honor one another above yourselves.
Romans 12:10b (NIV)

WHY? Because we are valuable!

- It's like saying, "We need to be honest about each other."

HONOR for Those in God's family...

- We owe all our family some type of honor, simply because they are members of God's family.*

BUT...

- There are different types of honor, because we have different relationships and/or different gifts. →

* (All of them are greater than anyone who belongs only to the world's family.)

God's Family: Different Gifts... All Important

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Cor. 12:22-25 (NIV)

But don't forget:

Each of us also belongs to the "born of women" category!

"... among those born of women ..."

Luke 7:28 (NIV)

AND SO...

- We need to honor people who are NOT members of God's family.

THEREFORE,
as we interact with all people...



ALL THIS EXCITEMENT IS WEARING ME OUT!

We need to treat all people as **VALUABLE!**

Honor everyone.

1 Peter 2:17a (GW)

WHY? Because all are valuable!

- It's like saying, "We need to be honest about all people."

HONOR for ALL people...
(saved and unsaved)

- We owe **ALL** people some type of honor, simply because God made them in his image. (Genesis 1:26)
 - Sin has messed things up, but it hasn't removed this fact!
 - This honor is greater than what belongs to animals, plants and other aspects of creation.
- We owe **SOME** people special honor, because of the relationship that exists between them and us.

WHO should we honor?

God gives us a really simple rule!

If you owe someone honor, honor that person.

Romans 13:7b (GW)

Who is this "someone"?

- Scripture gives us examples!

★ We better not forget this! ★

The #1 Recipient of Honor must be...

God! / Jesus Christ!

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created.

The Lamb [= Jesus] is worthy—the Lamb who was killed. He is worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

Rev. 4:11; 5:12b (NLT)

The #2 Recipient of Honor must be...

Parents!

"Honor your father and mother,"
which is the first commandment with a promise:
"that it may be well with you,
and you may live long on the earth."
Ephesians 6:2-3 (WEB)

DESIGNED BY GOD

- God created the family as the basic social unit that teaches us the nature of authority.
- Our attitude toward our parents will influence our attitude toward any other authority, including God.
- Adult children must still honor their parents, though the way it's expressed will be different.

Honor must also be given to ...

Authorities in government!

Honor the king.
1 Peter 2:17b (WEB)

If you owe someone honor, honor that person.
Romans 13:7b (GW)

Both of these passages define a basic principle.

- Back then, there were kings and emperors, etc. Today, we may have presidents and/or other authorities.
- The context of Romans 13:7 has to do with our attitude toward civil authorities (though the verse expands the concept of "honor" to all situations where it is relevant).

Honor must also be given to ...

Authorities in government!

WHAT IF THE AUTHORITY IS "LESS-THAN-PERFECT"?

If you owe someone honor, honor that person.
Romans 13:7b (GW)

YES, EVEN THEN! (This includes how you respond to your parents.)

- Even if you disagree with them, it must be done with the right attitude.
- God permits "civil disobedience" only when an authority tries to get you to sin. And even then... watch your attitude!

When YOU interact with an authority...

Do you respond with **HONOR?** ... or with **SIN?**

WE LIVE IN AN EVIL DAY.

- People are encouraged to respond with SIN.
- And then the authority is blamed if someone gets hurt or killed!



The concept of HONOR is to be applied in many types of situations (toward people and things).

When applied to things: The word may be translated as "precious" or "valuable."

- Honor older widows who have lived godly lives. (1 Tim. 5:3-10)
- Husbands are to honor their wives. (1 Peter 3:7)
- Honor those you work for. (1 Tim. 6:1)
- Honor church leaders who have done well. (1 Tim. 5:17)
- Treat marriage with honor. (Hebrews 13:4)
- Jesus' blood, which saved us, is precious. (1 Peter 1:19)
- Do not dishonor your bodies with depraved lust. (Rom. 1:24-26)
- (And many other verses... but this is a good list to start with.)

Your Mission...

"PRACTICE TREATING OTHERS WITH HONOR – REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY ARE!"

VALUE ALL PEOPLE...

- Especially your family in Christ!

REALIZE THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES...

- The way you honor someone will depend on the specific relationship.

Credits

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Your Mission...

"Show proper respect [= honor] to everyone ..."

1 Peter 2:17a (NIV)

(Our obligation extends beyond our immediate family in Christ.)

"HONOR" - This has to do with recognizing the value, importance, or worth in someone (or something), *and responding appropriately*. The opposite is shame, dishonor, or disgrace.

Selected Scripture Passages about Honor

God / Jesus Christ

- Honor belongs to God; he is worthy - Rev. 4:11; 1 Tim. 1:17.
- Beware of giving God *fake* honor - Matthew 15:7-9.
- Jesus is worthy - Rev. 5:12.
- While on earth, people often treated Jesus with dishonor, just like they did the Old Testament prophets - Mat. 13:57.

God's servants (apostles, prophets, all who follow him)

- Often dishonored by the world - Mat. 13:57; Mark 12:4 (a parable - vs. 1-12); Acts 5:41; God's people know that this is part of the cost of following Jesus (Mark 8:34-38).
- We are to honor each other: above self - Rom. 12:10b; regardless of social status - James 2:5-9; honoring Christian wives (in contrast to the world's ways) - 1 Peter 3:7; honoring godly widows - 1 Timothy 5:3, 9-10; honoring people with different spiritual gifts - 1 Cor. 12:20-26; 1 Tim. 5:17.

Authority

- Parents are to be honored - Matthew 15:4; Ephesians 6:2-3.
- A warning about dishonoring parents - Matthew 15:3-9.
- Government authorities - 1 Peter 2:17b; Romans 13:7 (v. 1-7).
- Masters (the *principle* applies to employers) - 1 Timothy 6:1.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE VALUE!

God created humans in his image! God created us to reflect his glory in ways that no other created entity can. This is what it means to be "human"! Sin has messed things up; *but it hasn't totally removed our humanity* - though people often try to act "less than human."

Self

- Pursuing *godly* honor is an aspect of pursuing eternal life - Romans 2:6-11 (made possible because of God's power in us).
- Pursuing depraved sexual practices dishonors one's body (and is evidence of God's judgment) - Romans 1:24-27, contrasted to the honor that God requires toward marriage - Heb. 13:4.

Valuing *things* (= recognizing their worth)

- The price or cost of something - Acts 4:34-35; 19:19.
- Of high value: Jesus' blood (which bought us) - 1 Peter 1:18-19 (also 1 Corinthians 6:19-20); God's promises - 2 Peter 1:4; our faith, compared to gold - 1 Peter 1:7.
- Of low value: our life, compared to the privilege of living for Christ - Acts 20:24.
- Stones of high value: symbolizes Jesus' value - 1 Peter 2:7 (v. 4-8); symbolizes our works (if good) - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; precious stones in the New Jerusalem - Revelation 21:10-21.