

Liberty Church Values: 9. A Culture of Honour

We believe that all people are created equal in the sight of God, therefore all people deserve honour irrespective of age, race, gender or status.

At Liberty church we are not only a congregation that honours leadership but also a leadership that honours the congregation. A people who believe in living with an attitude of honour regarding moral issues. That is being honourable as a quality of knowing and doing what is morally right.

English dictionary definition.

noun: **Honor**

- High respect; great esteem.

"his portrait hangs in the place of honour"

- The quality of knowing and doing what is morally right.

"I must as a matter of honour avoid any taint of dishonesty"

Greek : Transliteration: timē. Pronunciation: tee-may'

A value that is money paid or (concretely and collectively) valuables;

by analogy esteem (especially of the highest degree)
or the dignity itself: -

Transliteration: timāō. Pronunciation: tim-ah'-o

Definition: From Strongs G5093; to prize that is fix a valuation upon; by implication to **revere**: - **honour value**.

Summery of the meaning of honour.

To show high respect for, to have a high regard for, to hold in great esteem, to revere, to place value upon.

To live honourably. I.E. The act of living with a personal level of self imposed dignity, in keeping with high, Godly, moral standards and values.

Study Sections

- 1/. God Wants to Honour mankind.
- 2/. Biblical areas that deserve the giving of honour
- 3/. The Christians responsibility regarding Honour.
- 4/. How we can show honour to others.
- 5/. Conclusion



1/. God Wants to Honour mankind.

- **God bestowed honour upon man.**

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in HIS OWN IMAGE; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created THEM.

What greater honour is there, than to be made in the image of the one doing the creating, God Himself. The creature, made in the likeness of the creator. The sovereign Lord God all might, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three and yet one, wanted to make something physical, outside of Himself to visibly reflect to the physical realm, His very own nature and character. Another creature made in His own likeness, three and yet one. Spirit, Soul and body.

We are to look upon our fellow man as someone who has been given a position of honour by God, in the order of creation.

- **Confirmation of this truth by Moses to the Israelites.**

Deuteronomy 26:18-19 Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, and that He will set YOU HIGH above all nations which He has made, IN PRAISE, IN NAME, AND IN HONOUR, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken."

Word : HONOUR. Magnificence as in an ornament, splendour, beauty, excellence.

- **Confirmation of this truth by King David in the psalms.**

Psalms 8:5 NKJV "For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and HONOUR."

- **Jesus confirms this truth by teaching that it is something to be sought.**

John 5:44. How can you believe, who receive HONOUR from one another, and do not seek the HONOUR that comes from the only God?

Romans 2:5-7 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of 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, HONOUR, and immortality;



2/. Biblical areas that deserve the giving of honour

- **General areas that deserve honour.**

All People.

I Peter 2:17 NKJV "HONOUR all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. HONOUR the king."

Romans 12:10 NKJV "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in HONOUR giving preference to one another;"

Romans 13:7 NKJV "Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, HONOUR to whom HONOUR."

- **Specifically areas that deserve honour.**

The lord.

Psalms 66:2 NKJV. "Sing out the HONOUR of His name; Make His praise glorious."

Widows

I TIMOTHY 5:3 NKJV "HONOUR WIDOWS WHO ARE REALLY WIDOWS."

Parents

Ephesians 6:2 NKJV ""HONOR your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:"

All in authority. Kings / Prime ministers / Employers

I Peter 2:17-23 NKJV "**HONOUR all people (this makes sure we don't try to wriggle out of it because of personal grievances or negative life experiences)**. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **HONOUR** the king." (**then the how and why this is to be applied**) Servants, be submissive to your masters (modern day employers) with all fear, **not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh**. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;



This includes Church Leadership

Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

- **Specifically Eldership.**

1 Timothy 5:17-19 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double HONOUR, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The labourer is worthy of his wages." Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

- **The Elderly.**

Leviticus 19:32 You shall rise before the gray headed and HONOUR the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord.

- **Marriage and Sex within Marriage.**

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is HONOURABLE among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- **Those under our authority (comes under ALL PEOPLE)**

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

3/. The Christians responsibility regarding Honour.

- **It's something to be protected.**

The enemy seeks to rob us of our God given honour by dragging us into immoral, ungodly practices.

1 Thessalonians 4:4-5 NKJV "that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and HONOUR," not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

- **It's something to be directed.**

I honour God when I seek to honour man. We are in danger of seeking honour in the wrong places.

The enemy wants us to be caught up with living for the praises of people and not seeking the inner knowledge of Gods smile. In fact, living for the praises of man actually affects our ability to receive from God.



Matthew 10:40-42. "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.

Honour is directly linked to acceptance. When I am sincerely living in Honour towards someone, I am declaring my acceptance of them as a person, as an office or a function.

To not acceptance, recognise or acknowledge someone as a person, a legitimate God placed office or a function, is to dishonour them and will hinder Gods ability to import through them into our lives.

God sees and knows all. He knows my motives.

Honour can be exercised in varying degrees. The more I honour someone, the more I am positioning myself to receive from them and from God.

Now see this in the Context of people not believing who Jesus was and who sought to kill him.

I dishonour God when I seek to be honoured by man.

I should not honouring man so that man will honour me.

John 5:22-23 NKJV For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,"that all should HONOUR the Son just as they HONOUR the Father. He who does not HONOUR the Son does not HONOUR the Father who sent Him."

John 5:44 NKJV "How can you believe, who receive HONOUR from one another, and do not seek the HONOUR that comes from the only God?"

- **It's something to be presented.**

Proverbs 3:9 NKJV. "HONOUR the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;"

As a response to Gods goodness, His favour, His blessings, promises and provision, we are to show Him our gratitude, recognition and acknowledgement by Honouring God with the first fruits of our increase.



- **It's something to be valued.**

2 Timothy 2:19-21 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: **"The Lord knows those who are His,"** and, **"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."** BUT in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for HONOUR and some for DISHONOUR. **Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for HONOUR, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

Here we see that usefulness to God is a result of someone intentionally living to bring honour to God by working with God to cleans them of ungodly practices. I.E. Allowing the Lord to teach them, guide them and lead them away from and out of the sinful ways of this world.

Testimony: One of my prayers over the years. "Make me a vessel of honour Lord, to bring Glory to your name".

- **It's something to be examined.**

These verses lead into a few questions.

Proverbs 15:33 NKJV "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before HONOUR is humility."

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and HONOUR and life.

Questions:

How do we talk to people?

Do we speak when we have lost our temper? (Temperance is self control, lost of temper is loss of self control).

Do we speak out of frustration?

Do we speak out of agitated?

Do we speak out of irritation?

When we speak out of a wrong spirit we are in danger of dishonouring the one we are speaking to. To honour is to place value and respect upon a person and hold them in high regard. To speak badly to someone, to disrespect them, to not value them or their opinion and to not hold them in high regard or to humiliate them is to dishonour them.

Honour is something that we are called to walk in, to intentionally exercise, to stand up for, to live out and demonstrate, to be an example of and we also to teach others that honour is something to embrace as one of the primary values of the Christian life.



4/. How we can show honour to others.

By speaking well of people in public and in private.

By not speaking badly of people in public and private.

(To intentionally withhold negative words, even when you feel negative towards them.)

By speaking up for people who are being dishonoured in public and in private.

By helping to meet others needs.

By being willing to receive from someone who wants to bless us.

By giving time to someone (listening, being present.)

By living a godly lifestyle.

By refusing to think badly of people.

By praying for others

5/. Conclusion

God is to be honoured above all else. He wants to honour us and He wants us to honour each other. There is no category or status that is exempt from deserving honour. Even our enemies are to be honoured as Gods creation. **All people. 1 Peter 2:17**

Honouring someone is not to condone evil practices. We are always to separate the sin from the sinner in terms of our attitude and behaviour towards them. If we see honour as something to be earned, then we have become short sighted and earthly minded.

We alone can choose whether we will be a vessel of honour or a vessel of dishonour based on our own choices.

As we grow in our understanding of this truth may we learn and endeavour to honour one another, be respectful, value each other and treat each other with dignity.



Psalms 149:9 NKJV

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise His name with the dance;
Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the humble with salvation.

Let the saints be joyful in glory;
Let them sing aloud on their beds.
Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,
And a two-edged sword in their hand,

To execute vengeance on the nations,
And punishments on the peoples;
To bind their kings with chains,
And their nobles with fetters of iron;
To execute on them the written judgment—

This HONOUR have all His saints.
Praise the Lord!

