

## **“Honor & Influence” (May 26, 2013)**

**“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. For the Lord’s sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed, for the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone (*i.e., Honor all people*), and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king.” (1 Peter 2:12-17 NLT)**

**“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished...The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good...Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.” (Romans 13:1-2,4,7 NLT)**

**“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV)**

**NOTE: These words were written by men with a passion to see the Good News of Jesus spread, and His Kingdom transform the world. Their encouragement is more than “Behave!” They are saying: “Be Jesus!”**

**PROP- HONOR has the power to influence and transform a culture.**

### **1. SHARP CONTRAST TO OUR DISHONORING CULTURE.**

- **America began in defiance of authority (*i.e., several states had “Don’t tread on me” on their original state flags—rejection of any rule*)**
- **Typical American is independent, unafraid to speak their mind. They are their own ruler. Can easily move into DISHONOR.**
- **This culture of “dishonor” has manifested in many ways:**
  - **Politically- *the majority elect; within months the majority disapprove (we like leaders who give us what we want)***
  - **Workplace- *Weakened by gossip, complaining, defiance***
  - **Road rage**
  - **Bullying & “cyber bullying” (Nasty texts and emails)**

- Sporting events
- General rudeness (*tuning people out; cell phones; ear buds*)

## 2. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS FILLED WITH HONOR

“Honor”- *“To esteem. To value. To show great respect.”*

- We are called to “honor all” because God chose to give them life. And die for them. When we honor—we demonstrate their value to Him.
- C.S. Lewis- *“You have never talked to a mere mortal.”* (Every life has the potential to be filled with His glory! They were made for it!)
- RE: the early church rescuing Roman babies, they said, *“They love our own more than we do!”*

## 3. HONOR SHIFTS THE CULTURE

### a. Your “honorable lives” will “silence” your “accusers” (1 Peter 2)

- Joseph rescued Egypt (*in a nation where he had been dishonored*)
- Daniel shook Babylon (*where he had been taken as a hostage*)
- Peter “turned the world upside down” (*where he had been a convict*)
- Paul responded in honor (*when dishonored by the high priest-Acts 23*)
  - All of these men walked in honor
  - Yet, Joseph refused the advances of Potiphar’s wife; Daniel refused to pray to Darius the king; Peter refused to stop ministering to people (Acts 5:29- *“Must obey God”*)

### b. All of us are “under authority”

- Pray for, respect, refuse to gossip or undermine (Won’t always agree)
- Honest, honoring conversation—YES. Disrespectful dialogue—NO.
- “Follow the way of love” (1 Cor. 14:1) *Prolonged pursuit; focus; predisposition.* (i.e., “Let love be your aim” NLT). [What you PONDER fills your RESPONDER]

### c. All of us (at various points of time) are IN authority

- “Authority”- *the power of influence*
- God-given privilege to “build up, not tear down” (2 Cor. 10:8; 2 Cor. 13:10) [NOTE: Some sheep may bite; but some shepherds may barbeque] [NOTE: David honoring Mephibosheth- 2 Sam. 9:6]

“They will SEE your HONORABLE BEHAVIOR, and...give HONOR to God” (Peter)