

“Honor One Another”

May 8, 2016

1 Peter 2:17-18

Intro.- One of the earliest stories in the Bible concerns **the powerful impact of honor and dishonor.**

- **NOAH-** Walked “blameless in his time,” though people’s hearts were “only evil.”
- Then, following the Flood, Noah fell short of his high standard.
- **HAM,** his son, exposed his weakness—dishonoring and shaming him
- **SHEM & JAPHETH** honored their father by covering his weakness
- As a result:
 - Ham (& his descendants) came under a “**curse**” (“**to be made small; lessen; hemmed in—unable to advance**”)
 - Shem & Japheth were “**blessed**” (“**to receive honor; to enlarge; to prosper**”)

CORE: HONOR BEGETS HONOR.

How well we honor...and how we treat the imperfections of others (particularly those in authority over us)...has a direct impact on our lives (and on future generations)!

1. God calls us to HONOR ALL PEOPLE—even when we disagree with them.

- Honor is not condoning sin—it’s confirming value
- To HONOR is “*to esteem, value, & revere*” (*recognizing worth*)
- Our honoring of others is not qualified by their performance
- It is not our job to keep other people humble. They humble themselves “under His mighty hand” (1 Peter 5:6)—not under our scrutiny.
- We cannot fully communicate the love of God—if we don’t respect the person.

2. American history has been BLIGHTED BY DISHONOR.

- Many of our FOUNDERS followed Jesus—dedicating this land to His glory. Yet, from the start there were competing spirits—reflected in (2) very different flags:
 - “AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN”- George Washington (Honor God)
 - “DON’T TREAD ON ME”- Benjamin Franklin (Honor my freedom)
 - NOTE: While liberty from tyranny (in Europe) was needed—we can worship freedom. (i.e., “One Nation under...**freedom** or **my rights!**)
- The LOSS OF HONOR has affected our homes, schools, cities, churches.

3. "HONOR ALL" IS OUR CALL

- We are called to honor:
 - Every member of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:23-24)
 - Those in authority over us (1 Peter 2:17- "the king")
 - Church elders (1 Timothy 5:17), Our employers (1 Timothy 6:1)
 - Widows (1 Timothy), spouses (Ephesians 5:33 AMP- "*However, each man among you [without exception] is to love his wife as his very own self [with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of lovingkindness], and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear].*"), parents (Exodus 20:12), older adults (Leviticus 19:32)
 - Those who are frequently ignored (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- The LORD, in His perfection, has no problem honoring imperfect people:
 - Jesus: "*If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*" (Jn. 12:26)
 - The LORD spoke over David (*a passionate, yet flawed, follower of His heart*): "*Because he (David) has loved Me...I will rescue him and honor him!*" (Psalm 91:14-15)

4. HONOR brings RADICAL CHANGES:

- a. Causes us to RISE ABOVE SPIRITUAL ATTACKS
 - Satan only DISHONORS—("robs, kills, destroys, lies to, and accuses")!
 - HONOR sets up a BARRIER to his "demeaning" attacks!
 - When we honor (in the face of demeaning attacks) we rob the enemy of an opportunity (Ephesians 4:27- "Foothold"- *an opportunity to gain control*)
- b. Releases the POWER of GOD
 - *They took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he could not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.* (Matt. 13:57-58 ESV)
 - *At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them all.*" (Luke 14:40 NIV)
- c. Empowers us (and others) TO THRIVE
 - "Honor father & mother—that it may BE WELL with you!" (Eph. 6:2-3)
 - Highlighting & humiliating them brings a "curse" (*limit; no advance*)
 - NOTE: Ham's descendants lived outside the "blessing" of God

A true follower of Jesus—VALUES, HONORS, & RESPECTS!