



HONOUR:

Give respect, be ready to learn, live with gratitude

GENEROSITY:

Welcome, sacrifice, serve with excellence

ACCEPTANCE:

Demonstrate kindness, patience and forgiveness to all

AUTHENTICITY:

Shine with truth, integrity & purity

COURAGE:

He's a big God - have a go!

HONOUR: GIVE RESPECT, BE READY TO LEARN, LIVE WITH GRATITUDE



Honour means to recognise value and acknowledge worth and to act accordingly

1. WHO ARE WE TO HONOUR?

a. God

Rev. 4:11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and **honour**”

b. Ourselves

Psalm 139: 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

c. Others

Parents: Exodus 20:12 ‘honour your father and mother’

Church Leaders: 1 Tim 5:17 ‘elders worthy of double honour’

Employers: 1 Tim 6:1 ‘slaves honour your masters’

State Leaders (whether or not you agree with their politics!) : 1Pet. 2:17 **Honour** the emperor.

Older people: Lev. 19:32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and **honour** the face of an old man”

Widows: 1 Tim 5:3 ‘honour widows’

Wives: 1 Peter 3:7 ‘husbands ... honour your wives’

The marriage covenant: Heb. 13:4 Let marriage be held in **honour** among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Everyone: 1 Peter 2:17 ‘honour everyone’ From the least to the greatest 1 Cor 12:23

God’s kingdom is a place where everyone from the greatest (God himself) to the least is treated with honour, dignity and respect. If we really want his kingdom to come, we will create such a culture here on earth as it is in heaven.



2. WHY DO WE HONOUR? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

WE HONOUR GOD

a. Because he is the creator

*Rev. 4:11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and **honour** and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*

b. Because of his kindness and mercy to us through the cross

*Rev. 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and **honour** and glory and blessing!"*

c. Because God-honour is the culture of heaven and when we honour God it creates an atmosphere for heaven to invade earth

The trinity exists as an eternal community of honour (John 8:49, 2 Peter 1:17)

*Luke 11:2 And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed (lit: honoured as holy) be your name. **Your kingdom come.**"*

d. Because if we do not, our very souls become dark & we ultimately shame and dishonour ourselves

*Rom. 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not **honour** him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened....Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading (literally: dishonouring) of their bodies with one another.*

WE HONOUR OURSELVES



a. Because God himself made you to be valuable and worthy of honour

Psa. 8:5-6 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

b. Because for every part of you that is fallen, broken & failed – Christ died!

Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

c. Because you have been adopted by a King you are now royalty

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a **royal** priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

d. Because it is God's will that you know your value and live according to your value

1 Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honour, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

WE HONOUR OTHERS



a. Because honour releases life

Ex. 20:12 “**Honour** your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

b. Because when we honour others it demonstrates reverence for God

Lev. 19:32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and **honour** the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

This kingdom culture grates against our culture where older people are typically mocked and made to appear foolish and weak.

c. Because honour attracts inheritance

Matt. 10:41 **The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.**

“Realise that people carry and inheritance for you – if you honour them no matter how simple they seem you will be able to receive an inheritance from them. The power that you receive from the person speaking to you will depend on the amount of honour you show them”
Mark Brookes

d. Because dishonour attracts dishonour

1Tim. 6:1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honour, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.



3. HOW DO WE HONOUR?

WE HONOUR GOD

1. Through worship (Rev 4:11)

2. With our money & resources (Prov. 3:9 **Honour** the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce)

3. By honouring others

Especially - honouring those who don't naturally seem worthy actually honours God

Prov. 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

4. By shamelessly defending Jesus and the gospel

1Pet. 3:15 but in your hearts **honour** Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

5. By living with gratitude, not focussing on what He hasn't done but on what He has

1Th. 5:18 **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

WE HONOUR OURSELVES



1. Refuse to curse or speak badly of yourself (whilst being able to talk about your weaknesses)
2. Set healthy boundaries but live a sacrificial lifestyle
3. Your greatest potential for growth is your strengths – work in team with others to cover your weaknesses
4. Receive praise & encouragement publically but privately 'give it all to him'
5. Don't seek honour (Jesus warns us not to) but seek the things that bring honour from God

Prov. 21:21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and **honour**.

Prov. 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and **honour** and life.

WE HONOUR OTHERS



1. Live with continual thankfulness for the people that God has put in your life (1 Th 1:2)
2. Encourage, encourage, encourage
3. Fight the urge to gossip! Speak well of people when they are not present. In your awareness of people's weaknesses choose to highlight their strengths. Instead of pointing out the flaws that everyone sees, ask God to show you the gem that only he sees. Call out who people are made to be. (1 Samuel 16:7 'the Lord sees the heart')
4. Be on time whenever you can – their time is as valuable as yours. Honour your first commitment whenever you can
5. Learn from everyone and anyone. Seek first to understand, then to be understood. Welcome and learn from feedback – even that unkindly given.
6. Honour even those who fail and let you down (as you would like those that you fail to honour you!)
 - a. Forgive yet still chose to honour.
 - b. Recognise that even though they have made mistakes we still need to honour the gift God has put on their life.
 - c. Challenge behaviour not identity 'you're too good to live this way'
 - d. Do not be afraid to challenge people privately but defend them publically – especially leaders.
 - e. Be aware that we often dishonour those closest to us (Mark 6:4) perhaps because we see their weaknesses and where they have come from. Fight this tendency!
7. Mark 6:4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without **honour**, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."