

A Tradition of Honor

Series: Sustainable Faith: The Word

1 Timothy 6:15-16 (0940)

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I. The lost art of honor

a. The cultural embrace of shamelessness

Jeremiah 2:3 NIV *Israel was holy to the LORD... (v.5) they strayed so far... They followed worthless idols... (v.8) "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. (v. 13) ... the leaders rebelled against [God]... (v. 19) ... you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me (Amp—you are indifferent to me, and the fear of me is not in you)... (v. 34-35) ... Yet in spite of all this you say, 'I am innocent; [God] is not angry with me. (5:22-24) Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD. "Should you not tremble in my presence? ... But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; ... They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God (v. 27-28) they have become rich and powerful and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; (6:15) Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen...*

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV ¹⁶*This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.*

b. The lessening of honor in the Christian community

John 15:13 NIV ¹³*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

MOLIÈRE *To esteem everything is to esteem nothing.*

Matthew 13:57 NIV ⁵⁷*And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."*

A. W. TOZER *Christians have fallen into the habit of accepting the noisiest and most notorious among them as the best and the greatest. They too have learned to equate popularity with excellence, and in open defiance of the Sermon on the Mount they have given their approval, not to the meek, but to the self-assertive; not to the mourner, but to the self-assured; not to the pure in heart who see God, but to the publicity hunter who seeks headlines.*

Proverbs 25:27 NIV ²⁷*It is not ... honorable to seek one's own honor.*

1 Samuel 2:29-30 NIV ²⁹*Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?*

II. The Biblical call to honor

a. The only one worthy of all honor and glory

1 Timothy 6:15-16 NIV *God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.*

Revelation 4:6-11 NIV *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, ... Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

2 Peter 1:16-17 NIV ¹⁶We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

John 5:19-23 NIV ¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. ²¹For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

²²Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

b. The privileged position of a child of God

Psalms 8:4-5 NIV ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

⁵You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Deuteronomy 26:19 NIV ¹⁹He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

c. The price of privilege

Jeremiah 13:11 NIV For as a belt is bound around a man's waist, so I bound the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to me,' declares the LORD, 'to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened.'

Numbers 20:12 NIV ¹²But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

2 Corinthians 8:19-21 NIV ¹⁹What is more, [Titus] was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. ²⁰We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift.

²¹For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

Braveheart: William Wallace: Fight and you may die. Run and you'll live. At least awhile. And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willing to trade all of the days from this day to that, for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!

d. The power of privilege

Psalms 62:7 NIV ⁷My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Acts 19:17-18 NIV ¹⁷When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.

GEORGE MACDONALD When one seeks the honor that comes from God only, he will take the withholding of the honor that comes from men very quietly indeed.