

Honour Pt 1 Biblical meaning for honour

Today we begin a new study on the word “honour” and in this our first in the series we will consider what it means to honour someone. In this teaching we establish that (1) to honour someone is to lift them up, (2) Before honour is humility, (3) To honour is to obey, and (4) to honour someone is to have mercy on them.

Our four points established from the scriptures –

1. To honour someone is to lift them up

“And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God, as he hath spoken” (Deut.26: 19).

2. Before honour is humility

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility” (Prov.15: 33). See also – Prov.18: 12.

3. To honour is to obey

“But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him. And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported. The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him...And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour...” (Esth 1:12, 16, 20).

4.To honour someone is to have mercy on them.

“He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor” (Prov.14: 31).

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Illustration

“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner...for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Lk.18: 9–14)

Question to think about.

How does humility effect our ability to honour another?

Answer from the scriptures

When we lift up ourselves the only place to fall is down, the only person we have enough room to honour is ourselves. But when we humble ourselves we leave room for God to exalt us, and God gets the glory. And glory is linked to honour – Heb 3:3 As we move into this study remember before we can honour another, or hope that God will honour us, we must first exhibit lowliness, for– before honour is humility!