



When In Romans: “The Power of Honor”

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Introduction:

We live in a world where values like honor and respect are getting hard to find. Dishonor and disrespect are all around us so much that it is easy to get caught up in it – irreverent humor, sharing and reposting social media memes that make fun of leaders, being entertained by watching and judging others in their worst moments, all seem to be the new normal. But when we allow ourselves to get caught up in a culture of dishonor, we are unaware of the toll that takes on our own relationships and how it diminishes our influence. We forget that honor, respect, and influence all go hand in hand. So today, we will look at how to rediscover the power of honor as followers of Jesus.

Take a moment and read Romans 12:17–18, 21. Then read Romans 13:1–14 (P.1297, *Christian Basics Bible*). This provides a framework for Christ-followers to learn how to live honorably in a world of dishonor.

For Reflection And Discussion:

To grasp the passages above, let's dive a little deeper:

1. Read aloud Jeremiah 29:4-7 (P.857) and Mark 6:1-6 (p.1127). Let's explore the connection between faith in God's sovereignty and honor. Remember, "sovereignty" means that as Creator, God has the right to rule and will accomplish his plan and purposes. In Jeremiah 29, how would the Israelites' prayers express their faith in God's sovereignty? If the parents simply complained and lamented their captivity, what would their children, who listened to all that, have to conclude about whether God was in control or not?

Now read aloud Mark 6:1-6. What word did Jesus use to describe how unbelief was expressed?

Note: Dishonor goes hand in hand with unbelief. Honor goes hand in hand with faith in God's sovereignty. Knowing this, how can this help to reframe? If all Christians believed this, how would this change our discussions and social media interactions about politics and about people who don't look like me, vote like me, or think like me?

2. How do you see honor reflected in Romans 13:8-10? When you allow love and humility to be your greatest qualities, what happens to your influence?

3. In Romans 13:11–14, why is all this so important for Christ followers and our mission to bring hope to a lost and dying world?

Take time to consider if you have been dishonoring about leaders, culture, work, or other people in how you speak. How does that affect your influence within your family or with those around you who may not think like you, look like you, or vote like you?

Repentance is key here. Then consider how we honor God by bringing honor into the way we talk about people, politics, and life can make a difference. Where do you need to change?

Memory Verse

Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.
Romans 12:17