

## Series: Truth for All Time

# Whatever Happened to Honor?

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Craighouse Christian Fellowship



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**Honor. What is honor?** Did we cast it off in the Seventies, after World War II, last month? A little over 100 years ago, Josiah Holland declared The Day's Demand:

“God give us men! A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands; men whom the lust of office does not kill; men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; men who possess opinions and a will; men who have honor; men who will not lie.”

My 1960 Webster's New World Dictionary has a lot to say about the meaning of the word “honor,” much more than some current books of quotations in my library. I couldn't even find “honor” listed in the topical index! I had to dig deeper, further back into history. Today we must include women and all people in our quotes. After all, the woman of **Proverbs 31** clothes herself with honor (**Proverbs 31.25**).

**Honor, according to Webster's, means** high regard or great respect given, received, or enjoyed. It's connected to glory, fame, and renown, credit, a good reputation. People of honor have a keen sense of right and wrong, adhering to actions or principles considered right. They do the right thing even when no one's around. They have integrity. Honor implies purity, high rank or position, dignity. We use the word as a title of respect, as when we call judges “your honor.” We give people recognition, honors, and awards. I graduated “With Honors” from my undergrad university.

To honor someone is to esteem them, even to worship them, to exalt them. Yes, we might be at a social function and be asked to “do the honors” and so perform certain formal acts of courtesy, and we may be asked to be “on your honor” or under an “honor” system in organizations or at schools, and we may go to the bank to see if the bank will “honor” someone's check. Whatever the case, we are talking about respect, a good reputation, a purity of honesty, integrity, and no folds in the heart.

**The opposite of honor** would bring before us words like “disdain,” “scorn,” “contempt,” “criticism,” regarding something as worthless, placing no value on something or someone, “irresponsible,” etc. The opposite of honor leads to a pattern of criticism and contempt that engenders defensiveness and denial in others until they withdraw. The opposite is the spirit of Belial—mocking, making fun of someone, “messaging” with their mind, belittling, spoiling.

“The difference between a moral man and a man of honor is that the latter regrets a discreditable act, even when it has worked and he has not been caught.” Mencken

In his book, The Power Principle, Blaine Lee states on page 119, “If you live with fear, you will make choices based on what you want to avoid...If you live with fairness, you

will choose based on what you want to get...If you live with honor, your choices are based on what you value most." On page 120, he gives ten basic principles which honorable people incorporate into their character: "Persuasion, patience, gentleness, teach-ability, acceptance, kindness, knowledge, discipline, consistency, integrity." Remind you of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5?

**God calls us to be people of honor, honorable, honoring others.** To honor is to hold in high esteem, to regard, to respect, to prefer, to praise, to uphold, to give priority to, to count as worthwhile, to cherish, to conform to what is right, to accept personal responsibility for one's thoughts, words, and actions.

Honor values people over problems, commitment over contempt, what can be over opinions, a completely framed puzzle over a pile of puzzle pieces, matching thoughts, words, and deeds, "buying" you over "buying" it.

**Honor becomes a vital part of all relationships.** When we fail to heed the admonition of **Philippians 4:8** to think on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and worthy of praise, we become critical, dishonorable. Our criticisms come as we lose "the blindness of love" and begin seeing flaws. (**Lamentations 1:8**) Criticisms borne out of a critical spirit do not edify or minister grace to the hearer (**1 Corinthians 12:26, Ephesians 4:28**), thereby causing the words to become fiery darts against which one must become defensive (**Ephesians 6**). As the pattern continues, criticism and defensiveness lead to contempt, disdain, and scorn. With that, all honor, all respect is gone. The once defensive person, who may now deny every judgment, will withdraw, first spiritually, then emotionally, then physically. When we fail to honor the honorable, we impoverish souls and cause people to dry up with thirst (**Isaiah 5:13**).

**Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).** Without that covering of love, relationship is destroyed. It happens with people. It happens with God. Love, too, must be sincere, without hypocrisy, honest, pure, without folds in the heart, without a lie. That love will manifest in a relationship of mutual honor with each respecting, cherishing, exalting, praising, and preferring the other.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." **Romans 12:10 KJV**

**The best place to learn relationship and honor is with the Godhead,** whose love pours into us and keeps on covering our sins, healing our wounds, binding up our broken hearts, and filling our spiritual and emotional reservoirs with the water of life. As we come to God honestly, humbly, purely, confessing those things where we are out of order, out of sorts, out of alignment with Him and His Word, Jesus comes to water our souls with His Words of spirit and life. He comes to bring light and water and air into the soil of our soul, the humus of our being, that He might bring forth blooms of beauty. God's love turns the arid and dry and waste places into fruitful fields, greening and pruning us into honorable, living masterpieces of His creative art.

As we give God the first and the best, He will give us the first and the best.

**Isaiah 43:4** says: "Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honorable, and I have loved you: therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life." Surely, we read words of truth in

**1 Chronicles 16:27-29** and **29:12**: “Glory and honor are in His presence; strength and gladness are in His place. Give unto the Lord...glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” “Both riches and honor come of You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”

**Every true believer can honor God and others by adhering to the following values:**

1. Esteem God with reverent fear. **Psalm 15:4, Psalm 111, Hebrews 11:26**
2. Have regard to the poor, showing mercy. **Proverbs 14:31**
3. Praise God with your mouth from your heart. **Daniel 4:34, Psalm 66:2, Psalm 71:8, Matthew 15:8, Mark 7:6**
4. Give priority to the Son as to the Father and to the Holy Spirit. **John 5:23**
5. Regard reproof and receive instruction. **Proverbs 13:18**
6. Count as worthwhile the giving of tithes and offerings, sacrifices, service, work. **Proverbs 27:18, Isaiah 43:23, 1 Samuel 2:29, John 12:26**
7. Render to all their dues. **Romans 13:7, 1 Corinthians 12:26, 1 Peter 2:17**
8. Respect the elderly and those in positions of authority. **Lamentations 4:16, Isaiah 17:7, 1 Samuel 9:6, 1 Chronicles 11:21, Exodus 20:12, Leviticus 19:32, Matthew 15:4, Ephesians 6:2, 1 Timothy 5:3, 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Timothy 6:1, 1 Peter 2:17**
9. Respect God’s commandments. **Psalm 119:6, 15, 117; Isaiah 42:21**
10. Cherish the relationship that is marriage. **Esther 1:20, Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3:7, Hebrews 13:4, Revelation 19:7**
11. Exalt wisdom. **Proverbs 4:8**
12. Conform to rightness. **Deuteronomy 26:19, Proverbs 21:21, Romans 2:7, 2 Timothy 2:21**
13. Accept personal responsibilities. **Proverbs 25:2, Ecclesiastes 10:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:4**
14. Keep the Sabbath, a day of rest, holy. **Isaiah 58:13, Exodus 20:8-11**
15. Cease from strife. **Proverbs 20:3**
16. Prefer others in selflessness. **Romans 12:10, Philippians 2; 2 Chronicles 1:11**
17. Extol Christ. **Revelation 4:9, 11; 5:12, 13; 7:12, 19:1, 7**

I call all of us to repent and return to a determination to be persons of honor. I have written a scripture prayer entitled “A Prayer to be a Person of Honor.” It is in Prayers III. It is available on [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org) in the Free Books section and can be downloaded, printed, and/or used online—free.

God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, on a mission with a message. He was sent by the Father to save a people by fulfilling all righteousness in their behalf, dying to pay the penalty for sin justly deserved because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and accomplishing everything necessary and sufficient for salvation. What Jesus accomplished in and by His atoning work was accepted by the Father. Jesus rose from the dead the third day, as He said He would. The Holy Spirit applies what Jesus has accomplished in the New Covenant by the Sacrifice of Himself. Jesus had no personal sin; He accomplished redemption, reconciliation with the Living God, propitiation of the wrath of God, the destruction of the kingdom of darkness, and the forgiveness and removal of the liability and guilt of sin.

When a person acknowledges he/she is a sinner, missing the mark, and sees, comprehends, and perceives he cannot save himself nor can salvation be earned, he/she can pray from the depths of the heart to be forgiven and granted repentance unto life. We ask Jesus Christ to come into our hearts to dwell there. We give Him our very lives. We thank Him; He is worthy. We thank Him for giving us eternal life. And then we follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Finally, it takes the grace of God to be all that He desires us to be. We begin by honoring Him, the outflow of that being a move to honoring the work of His hands. As dignity is restored, we will truly become vessels of honor, fit for the Master's use.

**<sup>11</sup>“Worthy are You, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for You created all things;  
by Your will they exist and came to be.” Revelation 4:11 BSB**

**<sup>12</sup>“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and riches  
and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and blessing!”**

**<sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying:**

**“To Him who sits on the throne  
and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power  
forever and ever!” Revelation 5:11-13 BSB**

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