

RESPECT: FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING

Text: 1 Peter 2:13-17

INTRO: I have been asked to speak on the subject of respect--respect for God, for government, for parents, for elders, for neighbors & for self. Though there are several Bible passages that use the word "respect," there is only one, so far as I can tell that uses it in the sense in which we usually use the term. In Isa. 17:7-8, God declares that by the Babylonian exile, He is going to teach the Jews to respect Him, and to not respect the idols made with men's hands.

For the idea we usually describe as respect, the Bible usually uses the term "honor." Honor your father & mother. Render honor to whom honor is due. Honor the king. When the object of our honor or respect is God, the Scriptures usually use a word that means the same as honor, only more so. We are to fear, reverence, & worship God.

Honor all. Fear God. Honor the king.

I. NO ONE ELSE IS TO BE HONORED OR RESPECTED AS MUCH AS GOD. 1 Pet. 2:17.

Luke 4:8

You shall fear the Lord your God & serve Him, & shall take oaths in His name. (Deut 6:13).

NOTE: God is worthy of all the honor, all the respect, all the reverence, all the obedience we can muster.

II. WE ARE CALLED UPON TO HONOR, RESPECT, BE IN SUBJECTION TO GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES.

READ ROMANS 13:1-7.

Not every politician is personally worthy of great respect. The Herods weren't, the Caesars weren't, Pontius Pilate wasn't. But God allowed them to rise to a position of power & governing authority. That power, that authority, is to be respected. The person God allows to wield that power is to be treated with respect & honor because of the position God has permitted him to attain unto.

III. CHILDREN ARE TO HONOR & OBEY THEIR PARENTS.

Paul quotes from EX 20:12 & calls it the "first commandment with promise." Eph 6:2

IV. THE BIBLE RECOGNIZES THE PRINCIPLE OF GIVING HONOR OR RESPECT TO THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED & LEARNED LONGER THAN OURSELVES.

You shall rise before the gray headed & honor the presence of an old man, & fear your God: I am the Lord. (Lev. 19:32).

Do not rebuke an older man but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

Likewise you younger people submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, & be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5).

NOTE: Rehoboam could have successfully ruled over 12 tribes of Israel, had it not been for one mistake: He rejected the advice which the elders had given him, & consulted the young men who had grown up with him, 1 Kings 12:8.

V. WE ARE TO HONOR AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND PROPERTY OF OUR NEIGHBORS--OUR FELLOW MEN. 1 Pet. 2:17.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous. (1 Pet 3:8).

READ ROMANS 13:8-10

VI. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN SELF-RESPECT. READ I CORINTHIANS 12:15-18.

...Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. (Romans 14:22). 1 Tim. 4:12

- A. The 10 spies failed because they had no self respect,
(Num 13:33). The one talent man, likewise, MT 25.

- B. Paul was one of the most humble of God's servants. He referred to himself as chief of sinners & least of the apostles, but he also noted: "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

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