

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Bringing Honor Back
Pastor Stephen Hayes
Sunday June 17, 2018

Main Idea – Fatherhood was established by God as a blessing. The Bible teaches we are to honor those who have authority. Honor is important because God has an original claim on those we honor, honoring benefits each of us individually, and honor is something that is given, not earned.

Fatherhood

- Godly fathers are involved in, and committed to, the lives of their children.
- Children find their purpose in life through their fathers.
- We are told to honor those in authority, including our parents.
- Honor means to “recognize value, or weight, of someone or something.”
- **Romans 12:10 – Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (NIV)**
- Satan has continually attacked the institution of fatherhood because of its importance to the quality of life on earth.
- For example, currently, social media fosters and encourages disagreement. Disagreement is a sign of widespread dishonor in society.
- To dishonor someone is to undervalue what God has made.

The Abraham and Isaac example

- Genesis 22 tells the story of how Abraham intended to follow God’s directive to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- Abraham was obedient to God, and Isaac was obedient to Abraham. Both men displayed honor to authority.
- Isaac trusted that his father Abraham had a plan, so he was obedient.
- Indeed, God the Father had the ultimate plan – because the city of Jerusalem was later built on that exact location.

Honor is important because

1. Honoring begins with God’s claim on others. Other people are God’s children, just as you are.
 - a. **Romans 8:30 – And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (NIV)**
2. Honoring benefits you, too.
 - a. **Ephesians 6: 2-3 – “Honor your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise – “so that it may go well with you and**

- that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” (NIV) (see also Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16.)
- b. **Proverbs 10:1 – The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. (NIV)**
3. Honor is given; respect is earned.
- a. Honor is a gift, not a reward.
 - b. What we say about human authority figures reflects our own attitudes about the ultimate authority: God the Father.
 - c. We are to give honor to human authorities regardless of our personal opinions.
 - d. **1 Peter 2: 13-17 – Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority; whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. (NIV)**

Positioned for an inheritance

- When we honor someone, we position ourselves to receive benefits from his or her place of authority.
- **Daniel 6: 1-3 – It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (NIV)**
- How we honor our leaders determines what we may receive from them. Jesus was not honored in his hometown. As a result, those of his own community did not receive blessings He gladly would have given them.
- **Mark 6: 1-6 – Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a**

few sick people and healed them. (NKJV)

- **2 Kings 2** tells the story of how Elisha gave great honor to Elijah up to the exact moment Elijah was taken to Heaven. As a result, Elisha received Elijah's mantle - as well as an additional anointing.
- When we honor our fathers, and those in authority, we are showing honor to God.

“What can I do for you today?”

- **2 Kings 2:9 – And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”**
- Just as Elijah asked Elisha how he could bless him, Jesus asks you and me the same question.
- When we show honor, Jesus desires to reward us.
- Give honor, and then ask God for the hard things (like Elisha). He will reward you.

Reflective Questions for Bringing Honor Back

1. How someone honors those in authority is a reflection of that person's attitude toward God. Use 1 Peter 2: 13-17 (above) to explain that this is required regardless of the authority figure's job performance.
2. Jesus did not receive honor in his own hometown. Why, do you suppose, it was hard for those who knew him to give him honor? Why was Jesus then unable to perform many miracles there?
3. Why is God so willing to reward those who show honor to authorities? Does this have anything to do with how He is working out His will on the earth?