

Would You Like to Gain More of God's Favor and Fruit for Your Life?

Matthew 10:40 AMPC

[40] He who receives and welcomes and accepts you receives and welcomes and accepts Me, and he who receives and welcomes and accepts Me receives and welcomes and accepts Him Who sent Me.

This verse reveals the real definition of biblical honor that our actions, our attitudes, and our benevolence to each other is done unto the Lord. So when I choose to show public sincere honor to a leader, I am doing for my own benefit, unto the Lord. I am practicing my thankfulness to God by demonstrating public honor to my local church leadership. In other words, God will use this principle among others to measure our servants heart for the Kingdom, by how we practice public honor to the spiritual covering in the local church. This attitude reveals the secret motives of the heart for serving in ministry. It reminds us of the need for interdependency on the theocratic structure for accountability no matter how productive or successful we are in our personal ministries or careers.

Jesus is our model for walking in Apostolic honor.

Philippians 2:2-11 AMPC

[2] Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention. [3] Do nothing from factional motives through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves. [4] Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not merely his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. [5] Let this same attitude and purpose and humble mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: Let Him be your example in humility: [6] Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God, did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, [7] But stripped Himself of all privileges and rightful dignity, so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. [8] And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself still further and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! [9] Therefore because He stooped so low God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, [10] That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] And every tongue frankly and openly confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus was given honor above all of His creation and angels because of the submission to suffering at the cross. This tells us honor should be recognized and intentionally demonstrated because of the long suffering and self sacrificing, the leader or saint, practices and not by their skill set or successful accomplishments alone. We will flourish with God's favor when we practice leadership honor.

Psalms 92:12-14 AMPC

[12] The uncompromisingly righteous shall flourish like the palm tree be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible. [13] Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. [14] Growing in grace they shall still bring forth fruit in old

age; they shall be full of sap of spiritual vitality and rich in the verdure of trust, love, and contentment.

True honor is recognizing with intentionality in our departments, the honor from long suffering those who lead us. We do this with Calvary in sight of how we speak to the department leader when we do not agree nor understand them.

Jesus experienced a lack of honor by His own people because they did not understand the suffering love He demonstrated towards them.

We see this in **Mark 6:2-4**. They saw Jesus as a good man, but they became very familiar with Him. Jesus built furniture for some of their families, He lived next door to others. Jesus was seen as a common boy who the neighborhood knew all too well. So when He spoke with authority He offended people to the point He could not perform any miracles. Jesus says *“a prophet hath no honor in his own country”*. **THIS IS GOD MANIFESTED IN FLESH TALKING!** The word honor, in Greek here means, to value something or someone. it means to assign a place of high regard, to esteem or to favorably regard something; to dishonor means to treat something lightly, to easily do away with something; to shame or even humiliate; to disregard something important as insignificant.

True honor is an outflow from the heart that fears the Lord with intimate affection. There is a longevity of favor and blessings to us personally, when we practice honor to those who are our spiritual covering in the local church. And remember whatever you practice, others are watching you, that serve you.

1 Thessalonians 5:11-16 AMPC

[11] Therefore encourage (admonish, exhort) one another and edify (strengthen and build up) one another, just as you are doing. [12] Now also we beseech you, brethren, get to know those who labor among you recognize them for what they are, acknowledge and appreciate and respect them all--your leaders who are over you in the Lord and those who warn and kindly reprove and exhort you. [13] And hold them in very high and most affectionate esteem in intelligent and sympathetic appreciation of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. [14] And we earnestly beseech you, brethren, admonish (warn and seriously advise) those who are out of line the loafers, the disorderly, and the unruly; encourage the timid and fainthearted, help and give your support to the weak souls, and be very patient with everybody always keeping your temper. [15] See that none of you repays another with evil for evil, but always aim to show kindness and seek to do good to one another and to everybody. [16] Be happy in your faith and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always);

So what does true honor look like in the local church?

Operating in liberty, your ministry, but always allowing the oversight of your spiritual covering to speak into your life or department without becoming resentful about it.

Rehoboam refuse to take the counsel of his elders and made life hard on the people. Rehoboam did not honor the wisdom of his spiritual covering and eventually split the church with his arrogance. Rehoboam felt he had a better way of doing things. No matter how talented or gifted we are we should never allow our attitudes to shun the counsel of our spiritual covering when it seeks to correct or modify our ministry objectives. Having freedom to exercise a ministry does not mean you don't allow from time to time leadership to lovingly modify or correct that ministries objectives. Practice

benevolence at all times to those you serve. You do this for your sake. You do this to keep your carnal man in check. You do this to perfect Calvary's love through you, towards your own leadership.

- ❖ Practice preferring one another.
- ❖ Avoid the ambition of competition between you and a fellow worker or minister.
- ❖ Avoid making mental comparisons with other leaders.
- ❖ Avoid judging a leadership decision harshly. be patient and gather the facts. if you find yourself becoming critical make it your business to go out of your way to show benevolence.
- ❖ Keep lines of communication open with your spiritual covering.
- ❖ Don't isolate yourself from the leader you disagree with trust and be prayerful with God, He will help you maintain unity and respect. Your views and diversity is invaluable to the local church!

The Bible tells us how to confront an Elder when we feel they are wrong. It tells us to be very careful not to bring accusations against an Elder in *Deuteronomy 21*. We are to admonish and to confront in love without being accusatory. If necessary have a second person become apart of the situation. This person must have spiritual maturity to also understand the importance of honor. The intention is to seek Godly unity and restoration with the spiritual covering. These things overflows God's favor to you and your family. All because you chose to purposefully demonstrate honor to your spiritual covering. Miracles and soul winning is all impacted by how we honor those in the local church.

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