

CORE VALUE TWO - HONOUR

What is Honour?

In the Old Testament Hebrew the main word translated honour is - **kabad** (kaw-bad); or **kabed** (kaw-bade'); a primitive root', **to be heavy**, i.e. in a bad sense (burdensome, severe, dull) or in a good sense **numerous, rich, honourable**; causatively to make weighty (in the same two senses).

In the New Testament Greek the primary words translated honour are:

- **timao** (tim-ah'-o); to prize i.e. fix a valuation upon', by implication, to revere.
- **doxazo** (dox-ad'-zo)', **to render (or esteem) glorious** (in a wide application)

When Jesus speaks of not being honoured in his home town the word used is **atimos** (at'-ee-mos); (as a negative particle) **unhonoured** or **dishonoured**.

When it speaks of double-honour for church leaders in Timothy the word used is **time** (tee-ma/lr from a value i.e. money paid or (concretely and collectively) valuables', by : # analogy, esteem (especially of the highest degree), or the dignity itself.

At EASTSIDE it is our passion to see every individual carry a sense of value (honour) inside of themselves and place a sense of value (honour) on those around them.

How to Give and Receive Honour

1. We Honour with Traditional Gestures

Leviticus 19:32 - *You shall rise before the gray headed and honour the presence of an old man.*

There are many gestures of honour and dishonors in every culture. Australian culture has abandoned many of the long-held westernised gestures of honour whilst retaining many of the gestures of dishonour.

Without creating an air of pretense or ever making people feel uncomfortable, here at EASTSIDE our culture should reflect our core value of honour in the little things. We can revive and foster a few of the widely accepted gestures of honour like:

- Ladies first
- Opening a door for someone
- Standing to greet people
- Offering a seat
- Dressing to suit an occasion

These demonstrations of honour are wonderful attributes to add to home, business and community. They create a general air of 'honour' which serves as a constant reminder of the values we hold dear.

2. We Honour with Giving

Proverbs 3:9-10 - *Honour the LORD with your possessions and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

Giving places a monetary value upon someone. It says, "This is what I think of you" Of course, all giving is 'relative' to the capacity of the giver; the level of sacrifice is the true measure of honour when it comes to the size or amount of a gift.

This is the very reason why God asks people to tithe; the first tenth is the same for absolutely everyone. Billionaire or welfare recipient, the first 10 per cent is the first 10 per cent. He does not ask more of anyone. He just says 'honour me' (value me) first in your increase.

Sadly, the work of God is stifled in many areas due to a lack of 'honour' in finance. Many Christians simply do not 'honour' God with their tithes and as a direct result most churches are understaffed and staff are underpaid. The flow on effect of this lack of honour means that leaders are not released into the fullness of their ministry calling and the work of the Lord is hampered at every turn.

3. We Honour with Acts of service

Romans 12: 10 - *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour divine preference to one another.*

Serving someone has incredible power to communicate 'honour'. Preferential treatment says, "Let me treat you the way I would like to be treated myself." This is the heartbeat of the Christian message.

At EASTSIDE we believe that every single person is called by God to use their personal gifting to serve in the house of the Lord. We believe that we honour God by serving his people, we believe that we place value on humanity by serving people, we believe that every level of leadership exists to serve.

4. We Honour with our Lips

Psalm 66:2 - *Sing out the honour of His Name make His praise glorious.*

There is no more powerful channel for conveying both honour and dishonors than the tongue. There is 'life and death in the power of the tongue' and every mature Christian should be watchful for the very natural human tendency to sow dishonors with our words.

5. We Honour with our Attitudes - ABOVE ALL!

Matthew 15:3-9 - *Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said 'Honour your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death. But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God, he is not to honour his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God devoted to God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain, their teachings are but rules taught by men.'"*

It is possible to display external honour with gestures, giving, service and words whilst not truly honouring in your heart, Jesus said of the religious leaders of his day, "You keep tradition, you give, you walk and talk all the right stuff but your head is rotten" Above all things we show honour by keeping our hearts in a state of genuine honour, Some how all the words, gifts service and gestures ring false if we do not actually value people in our hearts. True honour is a matter of the heart and we must learn to guard our hearts from the dangerous influence of dishonouring attitudes, especially towards the authorities God has set in place.

Honour what God Honours

Last week we spoke of how God has set in place authorities and what those authorities exist for. It is vital that we understand just how important God takes the matter of 'honour' when it comes to the authorities he has set in place.

Honour for Parental Authority

Ephesians 6: 1-3 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord. for this is right. 2 "Honour your father and mother"-which is the aryl commandment with a promise- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth"*

The first authority God has set in place in life is our parental authority and here we see that when honour is given to this authority God's favour is released upon the child's life.

This theme is continued throughout all authority structures in life', great blessing is released whenever honour is given to authority.

Honour within Marriage Authority

The second foundational authority structure in life is within the God ordained institution of marriage.

1 Peter 3:1-7 - *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hat, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For In this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. Husbands, likewise dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Honour in marriage is directly related to effective prayer. Somehow when a spirit of dishonour exists inside the authority structure of a home, prayers are hindered. This is an incredible principle which shows how highly God regards honour at all levels,

Honour for Spiritual Authority

Matthew 13:54-58 - *Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they; were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 Isn 't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offence at Him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honour. " 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

In this incredible passage Jesus links honour with faith and we see how the power of God is limited in an environment where there is no honour.

Psalms 133: 1-1 34: 1 - *How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.*

Always remember:

- Honour for authority is hardest to maintain where you live
- Honour releases great blessing
- Dishonour hinders the release of blessing
- Honour must be guarded at a heart level

Why People Dishonour

When people do not carry a sense of honour (value) for themselves they will always dishonour (devalue) others in order to try and feel better about themselves. If someone stands out from the crowd and appears to be revered and esteemed their sense of worthlessness is highlighted, thus they must find ways to devalue that person to alleviate their own dishonour.

Who Honours YOU?

True personal honour is something that can only be possessed by those who first know how to show honour. Thus the old statement 'there is no honour amongst thieves' is very accurate. A thief steals something of value (honour), without any sense of value (honour) for the individual he dishonours. A thief may well be honoured within circles of dishonour, but ultimately 'honour' from someone who has no honour is without value (honour).

Honour is not something we bestow upon ourselves. It is always good to stand back and say, "Who honours me?" If you are greatly honoured by people of great honour, you are obviously learning to live inside a circle of honour.

The highest 'circle of honour' we must seek to be honoured within is to be honoured by God.
1 Samuel 2:30-31 - *Now the LORD says, . . . for those who honour Me. I will honour, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.*

John 5:41-44 *I do not receive honour from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's Name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive! How can you believe, who receive honour from one another, and do not seek the honour that comes from the only God?*

We must live in such a way that honours God above all things. When we do this we will automatically be honoured by those He has already honoured.