

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Give Honor...To Whom?

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Pricing things corresponds with valuing things. A higher price listed for a garment over another garment may indicate that one garment possesses a greater quality of material, or has a more popular brand name commanding the price due to greater demand. The Greek word “*timeo*” is translated in the Bible as fixing a price on things, thus manifesting the level of honor placed on something or someone. Jesus was betrayed for “*thirty pieces of silver*” (Matthew 26:15). In the Old Testament, a gored servant was valued as a mere “*thirty pieces of silver*” (Exodus 21:32). When Ephesians sorcerers knew that their deceptive magic could not compete with miraculous reality, they collected their magical arts books and burned them. The price of the books they were willing to give up in following to the way of the Lord was “*fifty thousand pieces of silver*,” indicating a great sum and the consequential value they placed on honoring and following the way of the Lord (Acts 19:19).

Indicating the value we are to have for human beings, God commands us to “*honor all men*” (1 Peter 2:17). This is our default mode as we encounter all people in our lives. This does not

mean we are to respect the character or ways of all men. Like God, we, from the depths of our soul, “*hate the wicked and those who love violence*” (Psalms 11:5). But it does mean that we value mankind on the basis they are unique, being created the image of God (Genesis 2:27). This honor carries such a high price that a human being deserves to forfeit his or her own life if he or she deliberately takes the innocent life of another human being. (Genesis 9:6).

Similarly, Christians living under the rule of kings, are to “*honor the king*” (1 Peter 2:17). This does not mean Christians are to honor rulers by praising rulers manifesting an evil character; but it does mean we are to respect their authoritative role given to them by God. Paul exhorts Christians to “*be in subjection to the higher powers*,” because governmental rule has its place being “*ordained of God*” (Romans 13:1). Realizing the King and governmental authorities help establishing societal order, we honor them knowing they are fulfilling their role before the God who desires orderly peace, and not chaotic confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

While it is a given, that we must honor God, we must also know that we cannot honor the

Father without also honoring His Son, Jesus the Christ. Jesus declares “*He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father that sent Him*” (John 5:23). This is especially important for Jews who believe Jehovah is the One and Only God, but do not equally honor Jesus as the promised Messiah. God wants all to honor the Son as they honor the Father (John 5:22).

Honoring others demands genuine humility. The selfless humility to put others first before one’s own wants or convenience manifests itself when we “*in honor...*” are “*... preferring one another*” above ourselves (Romans 12:10). Honoring elders in the local church demands humility in submission to their leadership in the way of the Lord. But it also turns to “*double honor*” when the local church monetarily supports elders who not only oversee well the souls in one’s local church, but also labors in preaching and teaching the Word (1 Timothy 5:17-18). To humble yourself to see to the needs of your aged parents, as you put your own desires and wants on hold, manifests itself when one fulfills the commandment to “*honor your mother and father*” (Matthew 15:4-9). Selfless love is therefore at the center of honoring others.