

HONOR IN THE CHURCH

By Pastor Rene Lussier

During the early days of the Salvation Army, William Booth and his associates were bitterly attacked in the press by religious leaders and government leaders alike. Whenever his son, Bramwell, showed Booth a newspaper attack, the General would reply, "in fifty years from now, it will truly matter very little how these people treated us; what will matter is how we dealt with the work of God."

1. How are we to show honor within the church and
2. what kind of ministry will be honoring the lord?

1. IN THE CHURCH

Roma 12:10 (NIV) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Roma 12:10 (NKJV) [Be] kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

We need to review the definition of HONOR in the NT:

1. To estimate the value of something or someone
2. The price or value of someone (has to do with how you look at or consider people, worldview)

HOW MUCH DO WE LIVE IN A WAY THAT IS WORTHY OF RESPECT?

1Tim 3:8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. (conduct)

1Tim 3:11 In the same way, their wives {[11] Or way, deaconesses} are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. (attitude)

- So how do we show honor to others in the church? (Other translations)

ETR- Love each other in a way that you feel close to each other like brothers and sisters. You should want to give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourself.

Philipps- 12:10 - Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers, and a willingness to let the other man have the credit.

CONTEXT OF ROM 12:10 – in regard with spiritual gifts and ministries and positions in the church (view others, view yourself)

Roma 12:3 (NIV) For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- Rom 12:3 – **More Highly think**—Greek –hyperphroneo—very highly, exceedingly, beyond; (Mind, understanding, opinion) be minded, have the opinion, think.

- Compare with Phil 2:3 **CONTRAST**

Phil 2:3 (NKJV) [Let] nothing [be] [done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- **Lowliness of mind:** Taipeno-phrosune: Low degree, not far from the ground; a mind (modesty, humble opinion of self, a deep sense of its own moral littleness).

- Don't entertain any thoughts of jealousy or envy.

- Don't discredit anyone else because you thought you could do better or because you judge it unfair that this person is occupying the position that you think should be yours.

- EXAMPLE OF BODY PARTS IN HARMONY (How does God view the body of Christ?)

1Cor 12:24,25 NAS- ... But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

AMP- 1 Cor 12:25, ...but the members all alike should have a mutual interest in and care for one another.

ILLUSTRATION-

MESSAGE- 1Co12:21 Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? 22 As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way--the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. 23 When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or

clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. ²⁴ If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair? ²⁵ The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't,

WORLDVIEW AND ATTITUDE: (Pharisees)

Mark 12:39 (NIV) and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.

John 7:18 He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

- The defective worldview of the Jewish leaders caused them to be in conflict with the interest of God's kingdom. They were unable to understand Jesus. (Unable to submit to him)
- Jesus taught that leadership meant serving others & giving up rights; they sought titles and positions of honor.
- They were blind to the needs of others and preoccupied with themselves? **Do you know anybody like that?**
- Such a person stand in contrast to the servant leadership Jesus modeled.

ILLUSTRATION-

WORLDVIEW in regard to social status, or race, language group...

Jame 2:1 (NIV) My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

- Christians should not exclude someone or promote someone based on their selfish preferences...
- **Chapter 5 of 1 timothy** (Pastoral epistle) gives us A FEW practical examples of showing honor in the church

HOW TO RELATE?

¹Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as though he were your own father. Talk to the younger men as you would to your own brothers. ²Treat the older women as you would your mother, and treat the younger women with all purity as your own sisters.

POOR WIDOWS - QUALIFICATIONS

1tim 5:3 Honor (Timao) widows who are widows indeed (really widows)

³The church should care for any widow who has no one else to care for her. ⁴But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God very much.

⁵But a woman who is a true widow, one who is truly alone in this world, has placed her hope in God. Night and day she asks God for help and spends much time in prayer.

⁹A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband. ¹⁰She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers? Has she served other Christians humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good?

1Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

COMMENTARY -Guzik

What is meant by double honor? Paul has already stated that certain widows are worthy of *honor* (1 Timothy 5:1), speaking of financial support.

THE CONTEXT clarify the interpretation...

1Tim 5:18 (NKJV) For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and "The laborer [is] worthy of his wages."

AMP- 1 Tim 5:17, Let the elders who perform the duties of their office well be considered doubly worthy of honor [and of adequate financial support], especially those who labor faithfully in preaching and teaching.

WE HONOR OTHERS BY BEING SUBMISSIVE TO ONE ANOTHER

1Pet 5:5 (NKJV) Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] **be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility**, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 **Therefore** humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* 8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* 9 *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.* 10 *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle [you].*

Submit, be subject- 5293 hupotasso {hoop-ot-as'-so}

In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of yielding, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

Hupo- Under, with, by

Tasso- To place in a certain order, to assign a place...

FOR: The reason why... the guiding principle... God gives grace to the humble

THEREFORE: APPLICATION- Humble yourselves under the hand of God (context - to leaders, each other)- When God reigns, it enables us to submit)

Principles when dealing with difficult situations in relationships...

1. cast your cares upon him...
2. Watch for the devil's trap.
3. God will strengthen you...

1The 5:12 (NIV) Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. (order of God)

EXAMPLE: PAUL'S VIEW

Phil 2:25 (NIV) But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

How does Paul view his partner?

1. Brother, Fellow- worker- soldier (Consider him) "See him in the Lord"- 1) You do not work for me, for the Lord.; 2.P. Jennifer and I (Co-pastors); 3. You are volunteers...
2. Acknowledge those who send him. Acknowledge the achievement & work of others... Gratefulness
3. Knows him deeply and understand what is important to him . 26. you have to pay attention closely to others
4. Understand and is concerned for his emotional state
5. Paul does not want to keep him for himself, but desires to send him back for the good of everyone
6. Paul truly desires that his brother be honored. Paul did not take any credit

2. WHAT KIND OF MINISTRY WILL BE HONORING THE LORD?

Let's look at another EXAMPLE OF PAUL and his companions:

CONTEXT: the collection of an offering for the poor of Jerusalem (involving the churches of Macedonia and the Corinthians).

2Cor 8:16 (NIV) I thank God, who put into the heart of **Titus** the same concern I have for you. 17 For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative.

18 And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.

19 What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help.

20 We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift.

21 For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

22 In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you.

23 As for **Titus**, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and **an honor** to Christ.

24 Therefore **show** these men the **proof of your love** and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

Let other churches see and hear what the Lord is doing in lighthouse...

Let's observe who are involved in this ministry?

1. V. 16- Titus; 2. V. 18- The brother who is praised; 3. V.22- Our brother; 4. V. 23 – our brothers; 5. the writer and leader Paul

What are some of the qualities mentioned about them?

(1) Titus, V. 16 God put this concern in his heart (same as Paul)

(a) V. 17 He received (took up) the “paraklesis” (a **exhortation and a calling to get involved**) He responded spontaneously and readily accepted the work when Paul suggested it with enthusiasm.

(b) He is not going because Paul is sending him, but he is coming on his own authority, (free will) initiative, he desired and chose it. (**A heart's response to God**)

(c) V. 23 he is my partner and fellow worker among you.

- Paul's intention is to recommend Titus to them as a trustworthy bearer of their money.
- **Verse 23. Whether any do inquire of Titus**

Should it be asked, *Who is this TITUS?* I answer, he is my companion, and my fellow labourer in reference to you;

(2) **The brother who is praised by all the churches** for his service to the gospel. V.18

(a) V. 19 he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering

- He was appointed- “voted by stretching the hand” elected...

(3) **Our brother who has often proved to us** in many ways that he is zealous, V. 22

- whom we have often put to the test and have found him zealous (devoted and earnest) in many matters

(4) as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and **an honor** to Christ. V. 23

PAUL'S VIEW OF HIS CO-WORKERS -

Should any inquire, *Who are these brethren?* I answer, *They are “APOSTOLOS” apostles of the Churches*, and intensely bent on promoting the *glory of Christ*. THE HONOR OF CHRIST – V. 23

How this ministry is regarded and organized?

a) **Motives**

(1) V. 19 we carry the offering, which we administer [diakoneo] in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help.

- and [to show] our eager readiness [as Christians to help one another].

b) **Manner**

(1) V. 20 We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift.

- Avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift: Paul wisely avoided any gossip about his role in the collection by sending Titus and his companion to collect it, and accompany Paul in carrying it to Jerusalem.

(2) V. 21 For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

- We take precaution, and aim to be honest and above suspicion...
- Also in the sight of men is a reminder that all things financial in the church should be conducted above board and properly. Paul took whatever steps were necessary so no one could blame him with financial misconduct (wrongdoing). The church has been discredited because of financial misconduct...

- Paul and his companions are a model for us.
- We also have to see our church-group as performing a ministry together for the honor of God.

Who love little, **honor little**, do little; and those who do little, enjoy less.

Charles Hodge.

It was a stormy night in Birmingham, England, and Hudson Taylor was to speak at a meeting... His friend insisted that nobody would attend on such a stormy night, but Taylor insisted on going. "I must go even if there is no one but the doorkeeper." Less than a dozen people showed up, WAS IT WORTH IT? but the meeting was marked with unusual spiritual power. Half of those present either became missionaries or gave their children as missionaries; and the rest were faithful supporters of the China Inland Mission for years to come. [W. Wiersbe, Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers, p. 242.](#)

WHO IS READY TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR CHRIST?

Fred Craddock, WAS TALKING to ministers, about the practical implications of dedication. "To give my life for Christ appears glorious," he said. "To pour myself out for others. . . to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom -- I'll do it. I'm ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory."

Many are waiting for the call to supreme sacrifice before they consider to surrender to the Lord...

We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking \$100,000 bill and laying it on the table-- 'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all.'

But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$100,000 for one dollars. We go through life giving out one or two dollars here and there. Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love, acts of service, getting involved, one dollar at a time. It often means being submitted to someone else, assisting others... It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul."

[Darryl Bell.](#)

Charles Spurgeon preached to thousands in London each Lord's Day, yet he started his ministry by passing out tracts and teaching a Sunday school class as a teenager. When he began to give short addresses to the Sunday school, God blessed his ministry of the Word. He was invited to preach in obscure places in the country side, and he used every opportunity to honor the Lord.

Kay Arthur started her worldwide ministry by teaching teens in a barn (now in more than 120 countries, books in 68 languages)

What is your worldview?

How do you see others?

How do you relate? Honor? Serve? Submit?