



THE LIVING ROOM / HONOR & REWARD / BEGINNER CLASS 01

SCRIPTURE GUIDE

The More Excellent Way | Understanding the biblical language behind love, value, honor, dignity, and reward

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read each passage in its full context. The word notes below are designed to clarify important biblical terms, not to replace the larger message of the passage. Greek and Hebrew words can carry a range of meanings depending on context.

CORE PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

Paul moves from a discussion of gifts, functions, and interdependence in the Body into “a still more excellent way”: love. The class uses this transition as its foundation: Kingdom honor grows from love that recognizes the value of others.

TERM	ORIGINAL	BASIC SENSE	WHY IT MATTERS
agape	■γ■πη	love	In 1 Corinthians 13, <i>agape</i> describes love through its actions and character: patient, kind, not self-seeking, not keeping a record of wrongs, rejoicing with truth, persevering. It is more than emotion; it shapes how we act toward others.
zeloo	ζηλ■ω	to desire earnestly / be zealous	Used in 1 Corinthians 12:31. Depending on context, the verb can describe earnest desire or zeal. Paul immediately redirects the discussion toward the “more excellent way.”
huperbole	■περβολ■	surpassing / extraordinary measure	Part of the expression translated “still more excellent way” in 1 Corinthians 12:31. It communicates something surpassing or beyond ordinary measure.

Honor Everyone

Peter places several relationships together: honor everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, and honor the emperor. The verse helps distinguish the broad Christian call to honor people from worship or ultimate allegiance, which belongs to God.

timao

τιμᾶω

to honor, value, show respect

Related to *time*, "honor/value." The verb can include treating someone as worthy of consideration or esteem.

Outdo One Another in Showing Honor

Paul describes the relational culture of a transformed community: genuine love, family-like affection, and actively giving honor to one another. Honor is not merely something demanded from others; it is something believers initiate.

time

τιμή

honor, value, price, esteem

The word can refer to value or honor. Context determines the nuance. Romans 12:10 emphasizes giving honor to one another.

Honor Instead of Retaliation

This passage directly addresses the impulse to repay evil with evil. Paul calls believers to pursue what is honorable, seek peace where possible, refuse personal vengeance, and overcome evil with good.

kalos

καλός

good, noble, honorable

In Romans 12:17 the term points toward what is good or honorable in the sight of others.

ekdikeo

ἐκδικῶ

to avenge / execute justice

Paul tells believers not to avenge themselves. This does not mean wrongdoing is unreal; it rejects personal vengeance as the controlling response.

nikao

νικῶ

to conquer / overcome

Romans 12:21 frames the struggle positively: do not be conquered by evil; conquer evil with good.

David, Saul, and Restrained Power

David has an opportunity to kill Saul but refuses. He recognizes Saul's position as the LORD's anointed while refusing to become Saul's executioner. The story is especially useful for showing that honor does not require returning to unsafe proximity.

kavod

כבוד

weight, honor, glory

A major Hebrew word for honor/glory, derived from the idea of weightiness. Important for the broader biblical theology of honor, although this specific chapter does not depend on the term for its central point.

mashiach

משיח

anointed one

David repeatedly refers to Saul as the LORD's anointed. Recognizing Saul's appointed status does not mean David approves Saul's conduct or surrenders wise distance.

Love Beyond Reciprocity

Jesus challenges a love limited to those who love us back. Kingdom love extends even toward enemies and those who persecute us. The point is not passive acceptance of evil but a love whose source and pattern are God's character.

agapao	■γαπ■ω	to love The verb related to <i>agape</i> . In this passage Jesus commands love toward enemies, expanding love beyond reciprocity or preference.
teleios	τ■λειος	complete, mature, whole Often translated "perfect" in Matthew 5:48. In context it points toward the complete or mature pattern of love modeled by the Father, who extends generosity beyond favored groups.

One Body, Many Members

Paul rejects both inferiority and superiority within the Body. Different members have different functions, yet all belong and all are needed. This becomes a foundation for honoring people who are less visible or different from us.

soma	σ■μα	body Paul's central metaphor for the church's unity and diversity. The Body is one, yet composed of many members.
melos	μ■λος	member / body part A member is not the whole Body, but neither is it unnecessary. Identity and function are relational.
schisma	σχ■σμα	division / split In 1 Corinthians 12:25 Paul says God's ordering of the Body is so there should be no division, but mutual care.

Honor Father and Mother

The command to honor father and mother connects honor with family life. The command does not by itself answer every question about harmful family relationships; those situations require the wider biblical witness on truth, justice, wisdom, and protection.

kaved	■■■■■■■■	honor / treat as weighty The verb comes from the same Hebrew root associated with weight or heaviness. Here it calls Israel to treat father and mother with honor.
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Honor, Love, and Mutual Responsibility

The household teaching begins with the call to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and then addresses marriage. The passage should not be used to erase dignity, justify coercion, or excuse abuse; Christlike love is sacrificial and seeks the good of the other.

hypotasso	■ποτ■σσω	to order oneself under / submit The term can describe willing submission within an ordered relationship. Ephesians 5:21 provides an important frame: believers are called to mutual submission in reverence for Christ.
agapao	■γαπ■ω	to love Husbands are repeatedly commanded to love, with Christ's self-giving love as the model.

Children and Parents

Paul addresses both children and fathers/parents, placing responsibility on more than one side of the relationship. Children are called to obedience, while fathers are warned not to provoke or discourage their children.

hypakouo

■πακο■ω

to listen to / obey

Used for children's obedience. The word carries the idea of hearing under authority.

erethizo

■ρεθ■ζω

to provoke / stir up

Colossians 3:21 warns fathers not to provoke their children in a way that leaves them discouraged.

Putting the Language Together

Honor	Biblically, honor language often carries the idea of value, esteem, or treating someone as weighty. In this course, honor means recognizing and responding to the God-given value of another person.
Respect	The course uses “respect” as a practical teaching category for esteem that may grow from conduct, competence, role, or responsibility. This is not a claim that biblical Greek or Hebrew always separates “respect” from “honor.”
Dignity	“Dignity” is an English theological concept used here to describe the worth of a human person before God. It is not tied to one single Greek or Hebrew word in the class passages.
Trust	Trust concerns confidence in a person's reliability or character. Scripture does not require us to treat honor, trust, reconciliation, obedience, and access as identical.
Boundaries	“Boundaries” is modern relational language. The biblical principle is expressed through wisdom, responsibility, appropriate distance, truth, and stewardship of access.
Reward	Biblical reward language can use words such as <i>misthos</i> (μισθός), meaning reward or wages. In this course, reward is not taught as a formula that makes God owe us something; it is framed as fruit that can accompany Kingdom alignment.

READ WITH THESE QUESTIONS

- 01 What does this passage reveal about God's character?
- 02 What does the passage actually command, describe, or warn against?
- 03 Which word or phrase becomes clearer after studying its original-language background?
- 04 Am I reading the verse in its surrounding context, or isolating it?
- 05 How should this passage shape the way I recognize value and practice honor?

CLASS 01 IN ONE SENTENCE

Honor grows from Kingdom love: we learn to recognize God-given value and respond without allowing another person's behavior to determine our character.