



THE LIVING ROOM / HONOR & REWARD

01 THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Love → value → honor | 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8

01 The More Excellent Way	02 Honor Begins at Home	03 Honor in the Body	04 Honor in Society
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CENTRAL IDEA	WHAT YOU WILL DISCOVER
Honor is a practical expression of Kingdom love. To honor is to recognize and treat people according to the value God has given them, even when that value has not been earned by their behavior.	● Understand why honor begins with love. ● Recognize the God-given value in others. ● Understand the practical difference between honor and respect. ● Respond with honor instead of retaliation. ● Practice honor without sacrificing healthy boundaries.

BEFORE WE BEGIN

- 01 What changes when we begin seeing people according to the value God has given them?
- 02 Do we honor only the people we believe have earned it?
- 03 Can someone retain dignity even when their behavior is wrong?
- 04 How do we respond when we have an opportunity to repay the harm done to us?
- 05 Is it possible to honor someone while still establishing boundaries?

The More Excellent Way

Paul describes a community made up of many members, gifts, and functions, and then points to a still more excellent way: love. This class explores how that love becomes visible through honor.

01 Love Is the Starting Point

1 Corinthians 12 flows directly into 1 Corinthians 13. Honor does not begin as a social rule; it grows from a way of loving that learns to recognize the value of another person. Kingdom love does not ask only what someone deserves. It asks how we can respond in a way that reflects Christ.

REFLECT

- What most determines how I treat others: their behavior or the character of Christ in me?
- In which relationships do I react from self-protection, pride, or retaliation?

02 What Does It Mean to Honor?

Honor recognizes that a person has value before God and allows that recognition to shape the way we treat them. It does not mean approving everything, trusting automatically, or granting unlimited access. Even when we must confront, correct, or create distance, we do not need to dehumanize the other person.

REFLECT

- Can I speak truth without destroying dignity?
- Do I sometimes confuse honor with approval or submission?

03 Honor and Respect

In this course we use a practical distinction: respect may grow from conduct, competence, responsibility, or position; honor is freely given from love and recognition of God-given value. This is a teaching distinction, not an absolute separation of the biblical terms.

REFLECT

- What happens to the way I treat someone when I lose respect for them?
- Can I recognize value even when trust has been reduced?

04 David and Saul: Honor Under Pressure

In 1 Samuel 24, David has Saul vulnerable and could take revenge. He refuses to kill him. David does not call Saul's behavior good, and he does not place himself back under Saul's spear. His response shows that honor can coexist with wisdom, distance, and healthy boundaries.

REFLECT

- What could David have easily justified from the logic of survival or revenge?
- What does an honorable response look like when healthy boundaries are still necessary?

From Idea to Practice

05 Honor Preserves Dignity

Honor does not mean hiding injustice, denying pain, or avoiding difficult conversations. It means refusing to allow another person's wrongdoing to become permission for us to behave dishonorably. We can correct, confront, and establish boundaries without turning someone into an object of contempt.

06 Honor Within the Body

1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that no member can say to another, "I don't need you." Honor recognizes God's provision through people with different gifts, stories, and functions. Visibility does not equal greater value, and maturity also means learning to receive from others.

07 What Does Reward Have to Do With It?

Reward is not a transaction in which we honor people in order to make God bless us. It is the fruit that can grow when we live aligned with Kingdom culture: trust, unity, wisdom, belonging, healthier relationships, and the ability to receive what God has placed in others.

HONOR IS NOT...

- Calling wrong things right.
- Permitting abuse, manipulation, or injustice.
- Blind obedience.
- Automatic trust.
- Unlimited access.
- Avoiding truth to preserve the appearance of peace.

RESPOND

1. What person or relationship is currently challenging my ability to honor?

2. What part of my response needs to look more like Christ?

3. What healthy boundary do I need to maintain without falling into contempt or retaliation?

Make Honor Visible

Identify one relationship in which the way you treat the other person has been shaped mainly by their behavior. This week, practice a response that recognizes their value without denying truth, surrendering healthy boundaries, or calling wrong things right.

1**OBSERVE**

What triggers your need to defend yourself, withdraw, control, or retaliate?

2**RECOGNIZE**

Before responding, remember: this person still has value before God.

3**RESPOND**

Choose an action that holds love, truth, dignity, and wisdom together.

4**REVIEW**

Did your response preserve dignity without sacrificing truth or healthy boundaries?

REMEMBER

“Honor does not begin by demanding that others recognize my value. It begins when I learn to recognize the value God has placed in others.”

SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8 · 1 Peter 2:17 · Romans 12:10, 17–21 · 1 Samuel 24 · Matthew 5:43–48 · 1 Corinthians 12:12–27