



THE LIVING ROOM / HONOR & REWARD / BEGINNER - CLASS 04

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Honor In Society & The Meaning Of Reward | Authority, conscience, witness, and Kingdom fruit

PURPOSE

This guide accompanies the class and helps you read its passages in context. The Greek and Hebrew notes explain important terms, but they do not replace the full message of the biblical text.

CENTRAL IDEA

Followers of Jesus carry Kingdom honor into public life without confusing honor with blind allegiance or reward with a transaction.

1 PETER 2:13-17

Honor in public life

Peter calls believers to live honorably within society: doing good, living as free people, and honoring everyone. Absolute reverence belongs to God.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
timao	Greek	to honor / value In 1 Peter 2:17 the command extends to everyone. Honor does not depend on sharing the same position or preference.
eleutheros	Greek	free Christian freedom is not presented as permission to do evil, but as responsible life before God.

ROMANS 13:1-7

Authority and order

Paul recognizes the role of civil authority and calls for a responsible response. This text must be read alongside the rest of the biblical witness: human authority is real, but it is not absolute or equivalent to God.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
exousia	Greek	authority / delegated right Describes authority or jurisdiction. In Scripture, all human authority remains limited under God's authority.
hypotasso	Greek	to submit / order oneself under Can describe a posture of submission to legitimate order; it does not make human authority absolute.
phoros	Greek	tribute / tax Romans 13 includes concrete responsibilities such as taxes, respect, and honor.

ACTS 5:27-32

When obeying God requires saying no

The apostles receive a direct prohibition against continuing their witness about Jesus and respond that they must obey God rather than human beings. The passage shows a clear limit to human obedience.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
peitharcho	Greek	to obey an authority In Acts 5:29 it contrasts obedience owed to God with a human order that directly contradicts God's command.
martys	Greek	witness The apostles understand their testimony as a responsibility they have received, not merely a personal preference.

MATTHEW 5:14-16

The Kingdom's public witness

Jesus describes his disciples as the light of the world. Good works should make something of the Father's character visible. The way we work, serve, disagree, and treat others is part of that witness.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
phos	Greek	light The image communicates visibility and influence.
kalos	Greek	good, noble, beautiful The "good works" have an observable quality that points others toward the Father.

MATTHEW 5:43-48

Love beyond our own groups

Jesus carries love beyond reciprocity and affinity. This provides a foundation for treating even those who oppose us with dignity.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
agapao	Greek	to love The command reaches even enemies, showing a love that does not depend on reciprocity.
teleios	Greek	complete, mature, whole In context, it points to the fullness of a pattern of love that reflects the Father.

MATTHEW 6:1-4

Reward without spectacle

Jesus warns against practicing righteousness in order to be seen and admired. The Father's reward must not become a strategy for self-promotion or religious exchange.

TERM	LANGUAGE	MEANING & CONTRIBUTION
misthos	Greek	reward / wages Can mean reward or payment. Matthew 6 confronts the pursuit of human recognition as a motive.
dikaiosyne	Greek	righteousness / justice Here it refers to righteous or pious practices done before God, not as a performance to gain approval.

Don't confuse the terms

Authority	Real responsibility within a defined sphere. Human authority is limited and remains under God.
Conscience	A moral capacity that must be formed by truth and wisdom; it is not automatically synonymous with personal preference.
Public honor	Treating people and institutions with dignity without turning respect into absolute allegiance.
Witness	The visible way our conduct, words, and decisions represent the Kingdom before others.
Reward	Not a formula that obligates God to bless us. In this formation, reward refers to fruit that may accompany a life aligned with the Kingdom: integrity, trust, peace, wisdom, and healthy relationships.

QUESTIONS FOR BETTER READING

- 01 What does this passage reveal about God's character and ways?
- 02 What is the text actually commanding, describing, correcting, or warning about?
- 03 What does the Greek or Hebrew term add to my understanding of the passage?
- 04 Am I reading this verse within its context or isolating it?
- 05 How should this text transform the way I practice honor?

CLASS 04 IN ONE SENTENCE

“Human authority is real but limited. Kingdom honor allows us to respect people, preserve conscience, and represent Christ without blind allegiance.”