

Giving Honor to Others

Responding to Covid19

June 7, 2020

Introduction:

These days in which we live are like none that I have ever experienced. Covid19 has altered life for us not only individually, but also in our workplace, family and church. It has been two months since the last time Church Upon the Rock has met together as a congregation. Our first opportunity to meet since March 15th will be next Sunday June 14. Meeting together will feel and look quite different than it did in March.

I am aware that there are many opinions and beliefs about Covid19. Not everyone will agree with me in the changes that we are making or in what I am asking all of us to do as we resume meeting again.

Honoring one another:

Scripture:

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Rom 13:7 Render to all what is due them ... honor to whom honor.

Phil 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

1Pt 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Definitions: To honor a person is to show them respect or esteem

synonyms - deference, homage, obeisance, reverence

related words - esteem, recognition, regard, respect

contrasted words - disregard, neglect, contempt, despite

antonyms - dishonor

What is honor? (from *Bound by Honor*)

Honor simply means deciding to place high value, worth, and importance on another person by viewing him or her as a priceless gift and granting him or her a position in our lives worthy of great respect. Honor is a decision we make daily toward someone who is special and valuable to us.

The lower the value we attach to people, the easier we can "justify" dishonoring them with our words or treating them with disrespect.

Greek Words:

To give honor to a person is to give them respect.

To give honor to a person means the “worth” one ascribes to a person

Honor in the New Testament

Christians are called to give honor to one another,

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

1Cor 12:23-24 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,

Showing honor to others will affect the entirety of how we life.

Honoring our parents (Mt 15:4-6; 19:19; Mk 7:10; 10:19; Lk 18:20; Eph 6:2).

Honoring our employer [slave – master relationship] (1Tim 6:1).

Honoring our spouse (1Pt 3:7).

Honoring our political leaders [king] (1Pt 2:17; Rom 13:7).

We are to honor our bodies, abstaining from sexual immorality (1Thes 4:3-6; Heb 13:4).

The risk of change

1Cor 1:10-17 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

Division (schismata)

A division into opposing groups, generally two - 'division, discord.'

In some languages the equivalent of 'causing division' is literally 'to cause two groups in place of one group,' but more frequently the equivalent is expressed in terms of attitudes, for example, 'to cause people to be angry at one another' or 'to cause people not to like one another' or 'to cause people to think of one another as enemies.'

Quarrels (erís)

Strife, contention, wrangling (Rom 13:13; 1Cor 1:11; 3:3; 2Cor 12:20; Gal 5:20; 1Tim 6:4; Titus 3:9). Metaphorically, it means love of strife (Rom 1:29; Phil 1:15).

Derivative (erízō) to strive.

Synonyms (eritheía) contention, rivalry; (antilogía) verbal dispute; (máchē), fighting; (philoneikía), love of quarreling or contention; (logomachía) strife of words; (paroxusmós) paroxysm, incitement.

Antonym (eirénē) peace.

Guiding Principles:

How to respond to the one who has a different opinion than yours (Rom 14:1 – 15:7)

Romans deals with the gray issues of life that confronts the Christian.

1. We are to accept (Rom 14:1)

Rom 15:7 accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

2. We are not to regard with contempt - [to despise someone or something on the basis that it is worthless or of no value]

3. We are not to pass judgment on their opinions

[to judge a person to be guilty and liable to punishment - 'to judge as guilty, to condemn, condemnation.']

4. We are to bear the weaknesses of those without strength (Gal 6:1-2; 1Thes 5:14)
(bastázō) it means to give support; to take up and hold, to bear.

5. We are to seek to help others and not just please ourselves
(Rom 14:19; 1Cor 10:23-24, 32; Phil 2:3-4)

6. We are to accept and serve them

Rom 15:7-8 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. 8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers

References used:

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Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
Bound by Honor, by Gary and Greg Smalley
The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament