



The High Calling of

# H.O.N.O.R.



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Biblical honor is an internal posture of the heart that manifests in how we treat God, our families, and our spiritual leaders.

### **H - Heart (Honor is a condition of the heart before it's an action.)**

God sees past our outward performance. Before we can truly honor others, our hearts must be postured correctly toward God and the person we are honoring. Honor is not just what we do; it's who we are when no one is watching.

**1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)** *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

Samuel was looking at Jesse's sons to find a king, judging by their stature. God redirected him to David, a man after God's own heart, proving that God values internal character over external credentials.

**Mark 7:6 (NLT)** *Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.""*

Jesus confronts the Pharisees who followed traditions meticulously but had corrupt hearts. This verse defines hypocrisy and warns that lip service without heart service is not honor at all.

**Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)** *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

This is a foundational wisdom principle. If honor is to flow from us, it must spring from a guarded and pure heart. Actions of honor are merely the overflow of a heart that treasures God.

Check your heart: Is there someone you "honor" with your words but hold bitterness toward in your heart?

### **O - Others Before Self**

Honor requires humility. It is the deliberate choice to value someone else's needs, reputation, or success above your own comfort or ambition.

**Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)** *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

Paul urges the church to emulate Christ's humility. This is the definitive "others before self" passage, calling believers to adopt the mindset of a servant.

**Romans 12:10 (NLT)** *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

Paul describes practical Christian living. The phrase "take delight" or "outdo one another" (ESV) suggests a joyful competition to see who can honor the other person more.

**John 15:13 (NLT)** *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Jesus speaks to His disciples about the ultimate sacrifice. Laying down your life isn't just physical death; it is laying down your schedule, your rights, and your preferences for the good of others.

### **N - Nod of Respect (Honoring Parents and Pastors)**

Honor carries a generational and spiritual dimension. God places a special emphasis on honoring those He has placed in authority over us; both our natural parents and our spiritual leaders.

**Exodus 20:12 (NLT)** *"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."*

The Fifth Commandment. This is the first commandment with a promise, bridging our relationship with God and our relationship with our family.

**Ephesians 6:2-3 (NLT)** *“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”*

Paul reiterates the commandment in the New Testament, affirming that honoring parents remains a core value for believers, linked to blessings and long life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NLT)** *Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work.*

This is a direct instruction regarding pastors and spiritual leaders. Honor is due to them, not because they are perfect, but because of the heavy responsibility they carry guiding and caring for our souls.

### **O - Offer Support (Honoring Those Who Lead)**

Genuine Honor is a move from just attitude (respect) to action (support). We honor leaders by coming alongside them to alleviate their burdens, ensuring they can fulfill their ministry with joy rather than grief.

**1 Timothy 5:17 (NLT)** *Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching.*

Paul connects honor with tangible provision. The Greek word for "honor" in this context implies a financial honorarium or stipend. Support means meeting practical needs.

**Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)** *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*

This verse reveals the weight leaders carry. Offering support means making their leadership a joy by being responsive, faithful, and cooperative, rather than resistant.

**Jeremiah 3:15 (NLT)** *And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.*

While this is a promise from God, it also implies our responsibility to recognize and support the shepherds God sends. Supporting them ensures their godly guidance continues to benefit the flock.

### **R - Recognize (Honor that’s not communicated isn’t honor)**

Honor must be expressed. It is possible to feel grateful or respectful internally, but if it is never verbalized or demonstrated, it fails to fulfill the biblical command. Recognition requires a voice.

**Romans 13:7 (NLT)** *Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.*

Paul teaches that honor is a debt. Just as taxes are due to the government, respect and articulated honor are due to those in authority. It is something we "give," not just feel.

**Proverbs 27:2 (NLT)** *Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth; a stranger, not your own lips.*

This highlights the importance of community recognition. It is the "stranger" or the brother who can truly honor us. We must be a community that speaks up to honor one another, rather than leaving people to sing their own praises. Nothing is more unattractive than hearing someone telling everyone how great and important they are.

Is there a parent, pastor, teacher, or mentor who needs to hear you verbally recognize their impact on your life this week?

**Conclusion:** True biblical H.O.N.O.R. starts in the Heart (Mark 7:6). It values Others above self (Phil 2:3). It gives a Nod to parents and pastors (Eph 6:2). It Offers tangible support to leaders (1 Tim 5:17). And it must be Recognized and communicated to be complete (Rom 13:7).