



## CHURCH IN THE HOUSE EDIFICATION MATERIAL FOR AUGUST 2011

**THEME:** EXAMINING OUR YEAR OF HONOUR

**TOPIC:** AUTHORITY STRUCTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**TEXT:** I Sam 2: 27 – 30

### Introduction:

We began this journey of “examining our year of honour” by looking at “Honour”, what it means and why it is important. We went on to consider “The Pathways of Honour” and examined “The Principles and Power of Honour. This month, we shall continue our journey in the “Honour” series by seeking to understand and **responding appropriately** to “The Authority Structure in the Kingdom of God” to position you and I to receive and sustain honour.

### Words on Marble

“The degree to which you submit yourself to authority set over you, to that same degree you receive honor.” --- Dr. Tunde Bakare

### 3 critical considerations:

1. There is an Authority structure in the Kingdom of God
2. There is a test of honour which you must pass to receive honour
3. Your disposition to set authority structure is the major determinant of your success or otherwise in the test of honour

### All authority is appointed by God: Romans 13:1

1. Pharaoh - Exodus 9:16
2. Nebuchadnezzar - Jeremiah 43:10
3. Saul - 1Sam 9:16-17; 10:1; 15:11

...and same is true of Herod, Mobutu Sese Sekou, Idi Amin, Abacha, Babangida, Obama, Jonathan Goodluck or any other ruler you know or may know **good** or **bad**.

However, not all authority is godly. **God** sometimes raises up **very bad** men to **honour and power**, spares them long, and allows them to grow unbearably insolent, that HE may be so much the more glorified in their destruction at last. (Prov 16:4), for HE rules in the affairs of men and give it to whosoever HE pleases (Dan 5:21)

### 4 Categorizations of Authority Structures: God expects us to acknowledge, respect/honour

- a) **Civil Authority:** governance structure/systems at local, state and national levels (e.g. Police)
- b) **The Church Authority:** Pastors, Church Council, group/affinity/departmental leaders e.t.c
- c) **Family Authority:** “Honour your father and mother...” (Ex20:12; Deut 5:16; Prov 30:17; Matt 19:16; Eph 6:1-3)
- d) **Social Authority:** your Boss at work, teachers at school and others within the social system you belong

## **Interactive Session: “Test of Honour”**

1. What are your current reactions towards a person in authority (your boss at work, community leader e.t.c) who is
  - harsh, cruel, corrupt, evil?
  - deprives you of what is rightfully yours and even tries to kill you?
  - cheats you, shortchanges you, steals what belongs to you (promotion, pay rise, job, contract e.t.c.)?
  - talks evil of you behind your back?
  - has no respect or regard for you?
2. How should you respond to them in the light of **1 Tim 6:1, 1 Pet 2:18**?

**Consider this:** the Greek word translated as “harsh” is “skolios” it means among other things: crooked, perverse, wicked, unfair, tyrannical, unjust, dishonest, cruel, unreasonable, froward.

## **Examples of those who passed the test of honour**

1. David with King Saul, Daniel in Babylon, Mordecai in Shushan
2. Jesus Christ with Leaders of the Temple and Pilate

Do you know someone who in your opinion passed the test of honour?

### **Note:**

When you fight for yourself, God will not fight for you anymore. Ex 14:14 says ... “You will not have to do anything but stay calm. The LORD will do the fighting for you.” (Easy to Read Version). Follow the example of Christ (**Isaiah 53**)

## **Preferred Honour List**

1. God almighty (Rev 4:11)
2. Parents (Eph 6:1-3)
3. The elderly/Grey-Headed (Lev 19:23)
4. Your Spouse (1 Pet 3:7)
5. Those in Authority/Governance (Rom 13:7)
6. Pastors/Shepherds/Ministers of God (1 Tim 5:17)
7. Bosses at work (1 Tim 6:1)
8. The Brethren (Rom 12:10)
9. Widows indeed (1 Tim 5:3)
10. You (1 Thess 4:1-8) cf v4

Write out your own honour list

## **Conclusion**

“...Honour carries and is supported by the supernatural power of God. An honourable man may look like a lamb being led to the slaughter. He may look like he has just stuck out his chin for someone to hit. He appears this way because he lives by biblical teachings and principles. If we choose to do the honourable thing-if we chose to live by the Word of God-then, the honour of God will hold us up. He has promised us that He will honor us when we honour Him.” ---**Kenneth Copeland**

God has said, “Those who honour me, I will honour and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed” 1 Sam (2:30) and His word never fails.

## **Prayer**

Lord help me to embrace, align my life to and reap the benefits of your set authority structure.