



CHURCH IN THE HOUSE EDIFICATION MATERIAL (JUNE 2011)

THEME: **EXAMINING OUR YEAR OF HONOUR**

TOPIC: **THE PRINCIPLE AND POWER OF HONOUR**

TEXT: **I SAM. 2:26-30**

Introduction:

Having learnt the place of appetite/cravings in attaining honour, we identified Honest Toiling (doing 'good') as a good pathway to honour. Consequently, hidden virtues like humility, teachable spirit, wisdom, among others were carefully explained in the light of flawless attainment of honour.

In this vein, we would also be looking at the principle and power of honour. These are basic, deep fundamental truths that have universal application. They are like a “light house” and natural laws that cannot be broken. They apply to individuals, marriages, Families, private and public organizations or businesses that desire and want to attain honour.

The principle can be divided into two broad spectrums- **Vertical** and **Horizontal**.

The Vertical Principle

This relates to the source of true honour or the true source of honour, John 5: 43 – 44. You honour God and He honours you in return. 1 Sam. 2:30b).

The problem most believers have is guilty-conscience. We have not learnt to forgive ourselves and be awake to righteousness. Note therefore that the measure with which we forgive others is the measure we receive forgiveness from God. That is why David could claim to be **blameless** in II Sam. 22:21-28 and Paul also wrote in 11Cor. 7: 2 to the Corinthians that he had **wronged no man**. These men have gone through the process of understanding how to receive forgiveness from God and learnt to give others.

The easiest way of becoming blessed is to always nurse intention of being a blessing to mankind. The way you respond to God is the way God respond back to you. David thought of building God a house and God promised of building him an enduring house. IISam 7:1-17.

Horizontal Principle

This second principle flows from the first, especially as it relates to man. You don't give it, you don't get it. In the words of **Bob Waldo Emerson**, “*Men are respectable only as they respect*”.

Interactive Session:

Question: Is it easy to honour all people? Discuss in the light of the Scripture in I Pet.2: 11 - 17

It is difficult to honour some people but this principle must be obeyed because we *must honour all people*: Whichever category of people you decide not to honour means they are not human as noted in the scripture.

Three Basic Pre-requisite to honouring God

To honour God is to:

1. **Trust** Him enough to act on His word and principle even when it seems contrary and no matter the price you have to pay. N .B: If you don't trust God, you trust something else (no vacuum). Psalm 91:1 – 16.
2. **Love** Him: You cannot trust God except you love God - See John.14: 15, I John 5:3
3. Do things that are **pleasing in His sight**- I John 3:22, Col. 1:10

Examples of those that paid great price to honour God include the three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego). Dan. 3:8-30, Joseph in the house of Potiphar (Gen.39:1-23), Daniel in Babylon (Dan. 6:1-28)

There is nothing we can do to earn or increase God's love, it is fixed, even "...while we are yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly", but our conducts reveal whether we want to please God or not.

Conclusion:

Why we must honour those who don't 'deserve it'

1. God commands that we honour all men
2. Many times, God puts what we need in packages we don't like to relate with Hannah vs. Eli (I Sam.1:12-18)
3. When honour gets to where it's going, those who despise you will bow and stand-still at your arrival.

Prayer: Lord, help me to honour You and all men even when they seem not to deserve it