



The Power of Honor WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Out of Darkness - A Study in the Book of 1 Peter*, we will discuss what it means to show honor in different areas of our lives.

DISCUSSION

In the middle of **1 Peter 2**, Peter goes back to a key theme. **Verses 11 and 12** say: ***Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*** Peter reiterates that they are sojourners, which is a similar concept to exiles from 1:2. Peter is saying, “This is not your home, nor is it your final destination. You’re called out of darkness, but you still live in a dark culture or may work in a hostile workplace. You’re called to live different so that people see your good works and glorify God.”

In **Verse 12**, Peter calls us to a higher standard of living, ***...having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles...*** Peter is calling us to honor. “Honorable” means simply to live with honor. **Honor: means to respect or to esteem.** As we live honorably before others and toward others, it honors God. When we honor God and others, our soul comes under submission. Submission is the outworking of honor. While honor is our internal heart and attitude, submission is our external posture.

- What is the difference between honor and submission? How do they work hand-in-hand?
- How does living honorably glorify God in the eyes of unbelievers? Share an example of how your actions may have impacted others' perception of God.

Three Unique Places We Live Out Submission:

1. In our society
1 Peter 2:13-14a: *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him...* Peter says we are to honorably submit to every human institution and every ordinance for the Lord's sake. **1 Peter 2:17: *Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Honor all people—see them as weighty and worthy of dignity and respect...*** We fear God, but we honor authority. Sometimes it's difficult to honor the person, but we can always honor the position. We honor all people because they are all made in the image of God.
 - How does honoring authority align with the fear or reverence we have for God?
 - Discuss the distinction between honoring the person and honoring the position.

However, there are certain times when we may need to disobey authorities, like Peter's example in **Acts 5**. Peter and the other apostles were imprisoned for teaching the Gospel. In **verse 29**, Peter and the other apostles respond to this by saying: ***“We ought to obey God rather than men.”*** Peter himself rebuffs the authorities and says, “Well – if it comes down to obeying you and your laws, or God and His – we are going to obey God!”

- Has there been a time in your life where you chose to follow God over authority?

Peter also brings up an important aspect of how Christians use their freedom in Christ in **1 Peter 2:16: *As free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.*** Jesus Christ set us free, so we don't live as a slave to sin anymore. He gives us the power to not sin against God and others. We shouldn't use our freedom to continue to sin; we should use it to continue honoring God and walking in the freedom from sin He gave us.

- How do you understand the concept of freedom in Christ, and how should it impact the way we live our lives? What are some practical ways we can use our freedom in Christ to honor God and serve others, rather than indulging in sinful behavior?

2. In our workplace

1 Peter 2:18-19: *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.* Peter comes back to submission for the second time. This passage has some great wisdom we can glean when it comes to navigating our lives in the workplace.

The Apostle Paul also speaks to honor and submission in the workplace in **Ephesians 6:5-6: *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.*** Paul makes our work ethic and attitude clear. It's honor and submission. We must work as though we are working for the Lord. Paul then flips the script on bosses and challenges them to be a servant leader and lead with honor.

- Do you feel you work as if you were working for the Lord? How can we grow in this?
- How can leaders in the workplace embody servant leadership?

In verse 21, Peter depicts Jesus as the model of submission: ***For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.***

- How can we follow the example of Jesus in the workplace, especially during challenges?

3. In our home

1 Peter 3:1-2: *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.* Peter's back to the concept of submission again! He continues in **verse 7** speaking to the husbands: ***Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*** The key word here is *honor*. Miracles and power are released in a family when there is honor and submission in relationships.

- Why do you think honor and submission strengthens our relationships?
- How can we honor people who don't honor us?
- Give examples of how we can practice honor in our relationships.

LIFE CHALLENGE

Take some time to determine which areas in your life are challenging to live out honor and submission. Spend a few minutes in prayer, and ask God to help you in these areas.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER