

## Must we “HONOR ALL” – everyone? What Scripture says may surprise you.



January 2026  
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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**KEY Words: Honor, respect, submission, authority, chain of command, boss.**

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**Summary:** *Actually practicing this sermon will probably be one of the hardest things to practice in your life but the concept of honoring everyone is repeated many times in scripture. I believe many of you will be surprised.*

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I don't know how often, how many times, in my lifetime I've heard it said that “honor and respect has to be earned. If someone is dishonorable, they shouldn't be honored or expect to be honored.” That's what I always heard growing up.

But is that what GOD says? Is that actually Biblically true?

**Hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields,** host of Light on the Rock. I sure appreciate you coming to our site and sure appreciate those of you who have helped us with donations to the work God's given us to do in East Africa. Thank you so much. We have over 3,100 brethren now who attend services each sabbath with Light on the Rock in 39 or 40 congregations.

Your donations have kept some people alive. We have to help them get water filters because nobody has tap water and their water sources (like ponds) are contaminated. Several young people died of cholera and typhoid recently because of contaminated water. So the filters give them safe crystal clear water. When they boil water, it removes bacteria but not the dirty look. Plus you've helped many own a Bible, have chairs to sit on in church, a place to meet instead of just under a tree in the rain or hot sun, having a Youth Camp, and even latrines instead of trying to find bushes. Thank you so much.

**Now back to our subject today. Certainly we know certain people should be honored and respected – but are we supposed to honor everyone?** Or do we only honor those who have earned the right to

be honored? How do you see it? And more importantly, what does **God** have to say about it? I think many of you are going to be surprised.

**WHY do we need this sermon?** First of all, so we're being obedient to God and doing his will on this matter. And as usual, the more we do God's will, the better our lives become and He blesses us more.

**Let me ask you: What are clear examples of those we should honor?**

Surely the first one you might think of is of course we are to honor GOD. Of course. That's a given, I hope. And yet surprisingly, though we know we are to *worship* God, obey God, do what He says, and praise God, bless God – it's hard to find a verse that says specifically, "honor God". But we can come back to that. So obviously we are to honor God. But who else?

I want scriptures that tell us specifically whom we are to honor. Let's start with a well known scripture about honoring someone.

**The 4<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT – HONOR your Father and mother.**

**Exodus 20:12**

**"HONOR your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."**

Notice it's not just mom who is to be honored – but dad too. And not just dad, but Mom as well – whether you feel your parents deserve honor or not. Our Creator simply says HONOR them. Period.

Does it say "honor your father and mother – if they are good parents? But if he's a drunkard and she's a horrific gossip or worse – then you don't have to?"

NO – simply by being your dad and mom, GOD says we are to HONOR our parents. The Bible says nothing like "you can act however you wish with your parents if they act like the scum of the earth."

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

**What if your dad is in JAIL?** A murderer, a rapist, or a thief? Are we still to honor him? I don't see any clauses that say we don't have to honor our father if he's been a bad person or has committed crimes.

Perhaps in some cases, it could be dangerous to be around him so you feel you have to keep your distance – but you must still show honor as best as you can in those cases. Send him a note now and then. Remember important milestones in life – his birthday, maybe their anniversary, or other times.

***Our God gives NO allowances to be DISRESPECTFUL to our parents.*** In fact, in the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy), God says if someone dishonors his father, he was to be severely punished. So we must be very careful how we treat our dad and mom. Be very careful. God is watching.

**Exodus 21:17**

"And **he who curses his father or his mother** shall surely be put to death."

**Exodus 21:15**

"And he who **strikes his father or his mother** shall surely be put to death."

So clearly, parents are to be honored. But it's about to get a lot tougher.

**Who ELSE are we to HONOR?**

Before we read the next scripture – start to see that God wants us being respectful to EVERYONE, and I'm going to prove it. You'll soon see why.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, **PRAYERS, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for ALL men, 2 FOR KINGS and for ALL who are in AUTHORITY**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.  
3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

**Give thanks for ALL MEN. Pray for KINGS AND ALL in authority,** Paul says to Timothy, one of his pastors. Pray for them so we lead a peaceable life too. **DO we pray for, and GIVE THANKS FOR, our** president, or prime minister? **DO you?** Do you pray for President Trump? Or did you pray for President Biden and President Obama when they were presidents? **GOD** says yes we are supposed to be praying for them and giving thanks for them and all people. This may lead a peaceful life under their leadership.

**The terribly hard part is when your president, governor or mayor are known to be very evil people.** God again – just like honoring your

father and mother – does not say to pray for them and give thanks for them, but only if they're good, wonderful people. NO.... no such qualifiers.

Apostle Peter agrees, and gets even more specific.

**1 Peter 2:13-17** “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the KING as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, as to those who are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — <sup>16</sup> as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

**17 “HONOR ALL. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. HONOR the KING.”**

**HONOR ALL people. EVERYONE. Honor the King!**

**This KING at that time was Emperor NERO.** He accused Christians of burning down Rome. He burned Christians alive on crosses in the Roman Coliseum, and in his garden parties. He'd cover them with pitch and then light them on fire, alive as they screamed. If there was someone you'd want to curse and not honor – it was Nero. But look what Peter says to do – HONOR HIM. That's hard to imagine or believe! That would have been hard to do.

Are you getting the picture? Apostle Paul gives us more detail as to WHY we must, even when those in authority can be so bad and so hard to honor.

Honoring such horrific leaders as Nero and even modern day examples, becomes easier to understand and do – WHEN we realize God is the one who put them there as leaders. ALL in authority are there because GOD willed it, as I'll show you. Look at what Jesus said to Pilate the Roman procurator.

**John 19:11**

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

**GOD The FATHER PUT PILATE in his position. Yes, even Pilate.**

**Daniel 4:28-32**

**“All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup> The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"**

While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, **until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever HE chooses.**"

So all world leaders in government and in any position of leadership, are there by God's own appointment. When those leaders fall short of our expectations, it's hard to believe GOD put them there – whether an emperor like Nero or Nebuchadnezzar, or your local pastor, or your mayor or boss.

Now it gets even tougher and more specific in Romans 13.

**Romans 13:1-7 Holman Bible translation**

“Everyone must **submit to** the governing authorities, **for THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, and those that exist are instituted by God.** [LET ME READ that again, slowly, carefully]

**2 So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing GOD'S command,** and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do good and you will have its approval.

4 **For government is God's servant to you for good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. **For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.** 5 **Therefore, you must submit,** not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience. 6 And for this reason **you pay taxes,** since the authorities are God's public servants, continually attending to these tasks.

7 **Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.**”

**What are examples of “those in authority”?**

**Obviously political leaders, mayors, or judges.** If you're in the military, obviously your captains and generals. **It also says ‘EVERYONE’ in authority. Who is that? That's your mom and dad as you grow up as a child in their home.** That's also including **your BOSS,** your work

supervisor, your teacher at school, your principal at school, the police officer pulling you over for speeding violation.

**Peter repeats this and makes it very clear again.** We are not to be submissive and giving honor only to our bosses whom WE feel *deserve* to be honored, but even to the harsh ones. In this country, if you don't like your boss you can go find work somewhere else. But we must always remain respectful. Look what he says to employees. It sounds almost incredible! The goal is to be like our Savior.

**1 Peter 2:18-24**

**“Servants (slaves), be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but ALSO TO The HARSH.**

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

**20 For what credit is it if, when you are BEATEN *for your faults*, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.**

21 For to this you were called, because *Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”.

Whether the people in authority are good or bad, God is saying WHAT to us? To learn to humble yourselves, and esteem others better than yourself – and GIVE Them HONOR. **In fact we're told to give honor to *everyone* and to consider others better than yourself!**

**Philippians 2:2-3 NIV**

“make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others BETTER than yourselves.”

Wives, that includes honoring your husbands. Husbands also are to honor their wife (1 Peter 3:7)

**1 Corinthians 11:3**

“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

Surely you all know **Ephesians 5:22-24** says a wife is to submit to her own husband like she would if her husband was Jesus Christ himself! And Husbands are to LOVE their wives, giving themselves for their wives, as Christ does His own bride – the church (**Eph 5:25**). And in fact in verse 21 Paul tells us to “submit to one another”.

**1 Peter 3:1-7**

“**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,* 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

3, 4 – God’s women should have a beautiful HEARTS. What’s inside.)

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

7 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”.

**Are we to EVEN BE respectful of CHILDREN?**

ADULTS – we are to deal respectfully even with children. There’s no need to scream at them all the time or crush their spirit. NO need for that.

**Ephesians 6:4**

“And you, **fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,** but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

**Mark 9:33-37**

Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. 35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "*If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*"

36 Then **He took a little child and set him in the midst of them.** And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,

37 "**Whoever receives [or welcomes] one of these little children in My name receives [welcomes] Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.**"

## CHURCH AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT

Remember Apostle Paul in Romans 13 said ALL authority comes from GOD. That is so hard to fully believe and accept. "All" has to include church leaders as well. It's really bad to be condemning and gossiping about church leaders.

So yes, there IS authority also in the church. If you don't like or have issues with a particular minister, talk to him alone as Matt. 18:15-17 says. And if it can't be resolved, eventually go attend somewhere else but don't bad-mouth the elder. But we do have leaders who are described as being "OVER" us.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**

"And we urge you, brethren, to **recognize** those who labor among you, and are OVER you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup> and to **esteem them very highly** in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

### **Hebrews 13:17**

"**Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. **Let them do so with joy** and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

So all through scripture, there is no room for the kind of disrespect and dishonoring that we sometimes see going on in God's church. I've done it as well in the past, and had to repent of it. I hope you can too.

If you have an issue – **apply Matthw 18:15-17**. But you talk to that man. **Here are the rules:** Go to him FIRST, ALONE, just you and he. NO ONE else. Just the two of you. And you don't talk ABOUT him to others as that becomes *your* sin – GOSSIP and disrespect.

I'm NOT supposed to even listen to accusations against elders unless at least two or three others also come forward with the same accusations.

### **1 Timothy 5:19-20**

"**Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.** <sup>20</sup> Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear."

Rejecting a leader sent to you is very serious. We could be rejecting Yeshua himself, the son of God, when we do that. Jesus explains the chain of command.

**Luke 10:16**

**“He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects YOU rejects ME, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”**

**John 13:20**

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”**

Again, all those in authority are there by God's will. He may be testing everyone with the choices He gives us sometimes. But all authority is by God's will. When the nation of Israel decided they wanted and needed a king, Samuel was upset but what did God say? “They've rejected ME, (God) that I should reign over them” (1 Samuel 8:1-7). PONDER that.

It is SO wrong to be saying evil things against your ministers. Some have called them CORRUPT, liars, snakes in the grass... that's so disrespectful!

**Remember even Satan has position. He's called “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) and he had kingdoms** that he offered Yeshua during the temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:8-10) if Jesus would just bow down and worship Satan. Of course he didn't. But my point is, even SATAN has authority and a POSITION from God as well. Remember that we're said to be battling spirits in high places when we fight sin (Eph 6).

If you still feel that surely we don't have to be respectful and honoring to someone really bad, let me ask you this: **WHO would you say is the worst possible example** in the universe? Satan, right, the Adversary. **If you're in an argument with Satan**, you might think you could be disrespectful to him because how could anyone possibly honor Satan, you ask.

But Michael the archangel was battling with Satan over Moses' body. But look at the great respectful example Michael the archangel gives us:

**Jude 8-9**

“Likewise also these **dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority**, and speak evil of dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the DEVIL, when he disputed about the body of Moses, *dared not bring against him a reviling accusation*, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

Do you see the controlled respect Michael the archangel showed even someone as bad and corrupt as Satan himself? He didn't call Satan bad names. He wasn't disrespectful – as we too often are. He just said, “The Lord rebuke you”.

Frankly, this whole subject of being respectful, showing honor, submitting to one another, no matter what, is terribly hard. It's hard, so I recommend you really ponder and study this sermon a couple of times!

So God says to HONOR ALL, everyone –1 Peter 2:17. EVERYONE. ALL.

**1 Peter 2:17**

**“Honor all.** Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

Obey and submit to all government – with one exception: if they are trying to get you to break one of God's laws, then you must obey God rather than men. **(Acts 5:28-29).**

We are to accept those who have been SENT to us – and by doing so, we accept and receive the one who sent that leader, and the one who above that is Christ who sent that one, and Christ was SENT by God Most High, the Father **(John 5:36-38).** **When you reject someone sent to you, you're rejecting the one who sent him, you're rejecting Christ, and rejecting the Father who sent Christ (Luke 10:16).**

**So this matter of giving honor and respect and thinking of others as better than yourself – are such KEYS to living the life we've been called to live. It's truly a sign of profound humility and submission.**

We are to honor without requiring they be honorable first – just as God says to honor your mom and dad, without giving qualifiers. Just because they're your parents you are to HONOR them. We are to welcome and receive even small children. I like our pastors learning and using all the children's names.

Families should overflow with loving respect and honor for one another. Our churches should be full of deeply honoring our leaders. WE should honor our mayors, village chiefs, president, prime minister, the police officer whether he's good or bad. Again, they're in a position of authority and GOD says all those in authority are there by HIS decision. Let me finish by reminding us of Romans 13:1-2, two verses which are HONESTLY hard to do perfectly, but we must.

**Romans 13:1-2**

**“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”**