

B. David honored Saul's office even when Saul's behavior was wrong

**Honor is most visible when the leader is least deserving in the natural.**

C. Honor restrains the flesh

**Immaturity reacts; honor restrains itself**

D. Clarify the difference

**You should honor leaders at all times, but you should obey leaders only when their direction does not contradict God's will.**

#### **4. Honor leadership always, but obey God first (Acts 3-4)**

A. The apostles were told not to preach

**Acts 4:17 (NKJV)** But so that it spreads no further among the people, **let us severely threaten them**, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

**Acts 4:18 (NKJV)** So they called them and **commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**

**Acts 4:19 (NKJV)** But **Peter and John answered** and said to them, "**Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God**, you judge.

**Acts 4:20 (NKJV)**

For **we cannot but speak the things** which we have seen and heard."

B. There is a difference between honor and obedience

**We do not obey sin, but we also do not become sinful in our resistance**

C. The church's response must still be spiritual

**1 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)** Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, **prayers**, **intercessions**, and **giving of thanks** be made for **all men**,

**1 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** for **kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

**1 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)** For **this is good and acceptable in the sight of God** our Savior,

**1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**The believer's primary work is not outrage.**

**The believer's primary work is prayer and evangelism**

**Prayer is the language of honor**

## **Understanding Honor – Part 3 - God's Design for Honoring Authority** Sunday, July 5, 2026

**As a believer, I have a choice, I can mirror the world or I can reflect Christ**

**Honor is about attitude, speech, and conduct**

### **1. Honor begins with recognizing that God is the source of authority**

**Romans 13:1 (NKJV)** 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.**

**Romans 13:2 (NKJV)** Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and **those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

A. Authority matters to God

**1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV)** Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor the king.**

**Ephesians 6:2 (NKJV)** "**Honor your father and mother**," which is the first commandment with promise:

**Ephesians 6:3 (NKJV)** "that it may be **well with you** and you may **live long on the earth.**"

**1 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)** Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and **giving of thanks** be made for **all men**,

**1 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** for **kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and reverence.

**1 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)** For **this is good and acceptable** in the **sight of God** our Savior,

**1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

B. Honor is based on God's order, not man's perfection

C. The church should respond differently

### **2. Honor is exposed by our speech**

**Ecclesiastes 10:20 (NKJV)** **Do not curse the king, even in your thought**; **Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom**; For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.

**Acts 23:5 (NKJV)** Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that **he was the high priest**; for it is written, '**You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.**' "

## A. Dishonor starts in the heart and comes out through the mouth

### B. Moses, Aaron, and Miriam — Numbers 12

**Numbers 12:1 (NKJV)** Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

**Numbers 12:2 (NKJV)** So they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it.

**Numbers 12:3 (NKJV)** (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

**Numbers 12:4 (NKJV)** Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!” So the three came out.

**Numbers 12:5 (NKJV)** Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward.

**Numbers 12:6 (NKJV)** Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

**Numbers 12:7 (NKJV)** Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

**Numbers 12:8 (NKJV)** I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?”

**Numbers 12:9 (NKJV)** So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed.

**Numbers 12:10 (NKJV)** And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

## What may have looked like conversation, God treated as dishonor

## Be careful what you say about people God has placed in leadership

### C. Familiarity can breed dishonor

**Matthew 13:54 (NKJV)** When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

**Matthew 13:55 (NKJV)** Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

**Matthew 13:56 (NKJV)** And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”

**Matthew 13:57 (NKJV)** So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.”

**Matthew 13:58 (NKJV)** Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

## Familiarity can make people miss what God is doing through a leader.

## Application

- Repent for critical speech
- Repent for sarcastic speech
- Repent for fleshly commentary
- Learn to pray instead of tearing down

**But the greatest test of honor is not when leadership is easy.  
The greatest test is when leadership is flawed.**

## 3. Honor is proven when leadership is imperfect

### A. Saul was wrong, but David still honored him

**I will not become dishonorable just because I have been mistreated**

**1 Samuel 24:4 (NKJV)** Then the men of David said to him, “This is the day of which the Lord said to you, ‘Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.’ ” And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

**1 Samuel 24:5 (NKJV)** Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe.

**1 Samuel 24:6 (NKJV)** And he said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.”

**1 Samuel 24:7 (NKJV)** So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

**1 Samuel 26:9 (NKJV)** But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord’s anointed, and be guiltless?”

**1 Samuel 26:10 (NKJV)** David said furthermore, “As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

**1 Samuel 26:11 (NKJV)** The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord’s anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.”

**1 Samuel 26:23 (NKJV)** May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the Lord’s anointed.

**1 Samuel 26:24 (NKJV)** And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the Lord, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation.”

**1 Samuel 26:25 (NKJV)** Then Saul said to David, “May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.