

Lesson 5 – Principles 2

Culture Of Honor

Read the lesson below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. Remember, if we are no longer the shallow thinking person we were in the past, we think (and answer) more deeply than before. Don't be wordy, be insightful. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." (Ex 20:12 NIV)

This is a very familiar verse from the Ten Commandments. Just because something is familiar doesn't mean we understand it. Some might understand honoring one's father and mother as a command to obedience. Others may understand it to mean a level of reverence or courtesy. But the Hebrew for the word "honor" in this verse means: *"to be heavy, be weighty, be grievous, be hard, be rich, be honorable, be glorious, be burdensome, be honored."* To honor someone is to give weight to them, a level of importance. It doesn't lead us to blind obedience to the person but to heavily consider their life and their counsel.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Rom 12:10 NIV)

Honor doesn't stop with parents but also includes others in the Body of Christ.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." (James 1:17 NIV)

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Pr 27:18 NIV)

Read about David slaying Goliath in I Samuel 17:40-51 Note in verse 40 the 5 smooth stones that David picked up out of the stream. We are these living stones (I Peter 2:5) and the stream is the Holy Spirit (Is 44:3). The stream (Spirit) brings smaller stones along to knock off our rough edges and grit (even smaller stones) to polish us up until the Shepherd can look into the stone (us) to see a reflection of Himself.

1. Is God in control enough to place certain people in your midst, even people who may irritate you (like grit) or be unkind to you? Does He do this for your good or to harm you?
2. Describe a situation where God used an unkind or irritating person in your life to facilitate your transformation into the image of Jesus. How did you treat this person at the time?
3. Can you now see this person as God's good and perfect gift to you from above? How might this concept change the way you treat (honor) the next person who treats you poorly?

Lesson 5 – Principles 2

Culture Of Honor

4. Describe the most recent argument or disagreement you had with someone. If you really believed in honoring one another above yourself, how might this have played out differently? In the future, how could you handle a disagreement with honor instead of just trying to win the argument?
5. Is it possible to disagree with someone and discuss the issue while still honoring the other person? How?
6. Considering thinking errors, what have you told yourself to make it alright to dishonor someone? What truth can you overcome that thinking error with in order to take that thought captive in obedience to Jesus Christ so you can return to a heart of honor?