

HONOR ONE ANOTHER

Honor is the glue that holds our society together. It defines our roles and obligations to one another. It is what makes relationships hold fast even through difficult times. Honor, however, is something that works best when it is practiced by both parties in a relationship. A parent who demeans his child, yet expects to be honored in return places an undue burden on the child and strains the relationship. The same is true with a husband and wife, a boss and an employee, or a teacher and a student.

In addition to enhancing relationships, developing a sense of honor increases our own sense of duty, peace and belonging. It clarifies our thinking about our priorities, defines right versus wrong, enables us to respect ourselves, and dictates a life of honesty and integrity. An attitude of independence from others, rebellion against authority and self-expression may sound exciting and appealing on the surface, but the end result is a sense of isolation, anxiety, confusion and self-doubt.

Honor forces us to evaluate what others offer to our lives and to appreciate even those who do not share our values. Today's entertainment is rife with ridicule of fathers and grandparents. It emphasizes throwing off the past and dismissing the wisdom of those who have gone before us. While there is certainly value in creativity, there is also tremendous value in learning from the mistakes of those who have been in our shoes and those who have paved our way.

Scripture teaches that we should not only look to our own needs, but also to the needs of others. We cannot honor others while putting ourselves first. It may be tempting to say whatever is on our mind at times, but honoring others requires that we hesitate, that we try to put ourselves in their place and understand their point of view, that we consider whether there is room for compromise, and that we master our pride.

Honor reminds us that we are where we are by the efforts of our forefathers, our war veterans, our heroes of the faith, and divine providence. It challenges our pride and forces us to question how much of our achievement we can truly call our own. It makes us appreciate the interdependence we have with those around us. A sense of honor clarifies what is important to us, to our families and to society. It enables us to see ourselves as part of something larger than we are and defines our place in the world.

If we expect to understand others and to be listened to, respected, and understood ourselves, we have to instill the core principle of honor in our relationships. Determine to instill a sense of honor in everything you do.

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