

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Honor or Honorable

"I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating." – Sophocles

"I love the name of honor, more than I fear death." – Julius Caesar

"The greatest way to live with honor in this world is to be what we pretend to be." – Socrates

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."
– Calvin Coolidge

"Who sows virtue reaps honor." – Leonardo da Vinci

Among the definitions for *honor*, we find, "a good name or public esteem: reputation; one whose worth brings respect or fame; a keen sense of ethical conduct." (Webster)

The word *honor* is used some 144 times in sacred writings. For example, "A gracious woman retains *honor*, but ruthless men retain riches" (Prov. 11:16). In that context, it referred to the idea of "splendor" or "glory". When Jesus was rehearsing portions of the commands of old, He said, "*Honor* your father and your mother..." (Matt. 19:19). Here it meant, "to prize, or to revere." Again, "I do not receive *honor* from men" (John 5:41). This time it stressed the idea of "dignity."

It is obvious that there are a variety of definitions which all depend upon the context. Even in our modern setting, we may use the term to express the respect we may have for someone, or even use it as a title of distinction.

Perhaps what we are more interested in is living a life of honor; or we would say, to be honorable. This has a lot to do with the perceptions that people have of us. We have a concern that people look upon us as having a good reputation.

The word *honorable* is actually used 25 times in Scripture. "And those members of the body which we think to be less *honorable*, on these we bestow greater *honor*..." (1 Cor. 12:23). "Providing *honorable* things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Cor. 8:21). "Having your conduct *honorable* among the Gentiles..." (1 Pet. 2:12).

Is your life one of honor? Are you respected for your Christian beliefs and life?

Unfortunately there is a term in the Greek that refers to one less honorable, or even despised. One would sure hope that no one would look upon you with disgust. That would be tragic and bring shame and reproach upon our Lord.

Consider that how people look upon you reflects heavily upon the church, and yes, ultimately upon Christ. How you live may indeed be a catalyst for good or evil.