

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

The word "honor" means to pay respect to or give the just due to the one being honored. Since we are born into the human race as a privilege, we have a certain obligation to have respect unto our fellow man. We cannot and must not disregard his freedom to be what GOD designed him to be nor do we have the right to take any possession from him which belongs to him. We may not agree with his principles or even his religion, but we have no right to dishonor him as a human being as a result. Since we have nothing that we have not received we do not even have the right to wish evil upon men who mistreat us or hate us. The LORD reminds us of this when HE says, "*Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.*" This is exactly what Paul tells the Romans, "*Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*"

Peter uses the word "honor" in describing our regard of the earthly government which the LORD is pleased to put us under. He describes the unjust, which are marked out for destruction, in this fashion, "*But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.*" Because of the innate, sinful nature of men it is necessary that we be put under "governments" of one kind or another. While we may not agree with those in places of leadership, we have no right to show disdain and disrespect of the institution of government or even the office which they might occupy, since our own sin has brought about the necessity of such matters. We are fortunate to be under a "government" which is (ostensibly) a servant to those who are governed.

While we might see great abuses of power exercised by those who are our elected representatives, we must still show respect unto the offices which they might occupy and if we feel compelled to unseat them we must go about it in a "lawful" manner lest we be found to dishonor "the king". While political activism can be carried out "lawfully" by those who are the children of GOD, we have a more noble calling as the sons of the most HIGH GOD. Peter says, "Love the brotherhood". This is the height of the calling of the sons of GOD as we dwell upon the earth. There is no higher aim (in this world) among those who are the disciples of CHRIST than to love one another. In fact the LORD says that it is impossible for a man to truthfully say that he loves GOD if he does not demonstrate love to his brother in CHRIST. This "love" which must exist among those who are "*heirs together of the grace of life*" far exceeds the concept of the "honor" which is to be shown to all men. This love of the brotherhood is founded upon the very principle of the unity of the GODHEAD. The LORD JESUS prayed, "*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*" "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*"

This "love" is seen as men "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*" This causes the children of GOD to "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.*" and brings about the desire to "*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" It is impossible that we should know every man who is one of the elect heirs of grace in this world, even as it is impossible to gaze upon the pages of the LAMB's book of life and read their names written there. Yet in the mercy of GOD, HE has called HIS people together in local assemblies where the chief and sole desire of those gathered is to see the name of CHRIST exalted. It is here in these "assemblies" that this "love of the brotherhood" is fully demonstrated in the relationships of those so privileged to be a part.

This is one of the reasons we are exhorted not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. To forsake that assembling is to show extreme disregard for those to whom we are united in CHRIST, our ELDER BROTHER, who presides there.

How sweet, how heavenly is the sight, When those that love the Lord,
In one another's peace delight, And so fulfil his word!
When each can feel his brother's sigh, And with him bear a part;
When sorrow flows from eye to eye, And joy from heart to heart.

"Thy free grace alone,"#11 If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net