

New Church Update followed by Q&A. Principles from Miner's "Art of Sprezzatura": Equation of Honor; Thieme's "Description of Spiritual Self-Esteem"

3. Brad Miner's "Art of Sprezzatura" gives us an illustration of the royal family honor code's application. From his chapter we can develop a list of principles that give guidance to the application of the code:

1. Miner mentions that "'honor' is properly the one word that epitomizes the *character* of a gentleman." We have illustrated this idea with this formula:

$$D \rightarrow \frac{Pr}{IS} + P \rightarrow D = H$$

Doctrine (D) resident in the stream of consciousness *produces (→)* *Integrity of Soul (IS)*. When *Integrity of Soul (IS)* is placed *under Pressure (Pr)* and the believer expresses *Probity toward Doctrine (P→D)* then he is a person of *Honor (H)* which is how *Integrity of Soul (IS)* is manifest to the world.

2. Miner uses the word *sprezzatura* to define the gentleman's *conduct* in life. Life must be lived one day at a time and the gentleman is one who in his application of doctrine confronts the exigencies, challenges, opportunities, and circumstances of life with a relaxed mental attitude which characterizes the faith-rest life.
3. The application of *sprezzatura* for the Church Age aristocrat is embodied in the royal family honor code which emphasizes one's relationship with God through fellowship made possible by the royal priesthood and one's relationship with others through royal ambassadorship.
4. A good relationship with others—whether God or fellow humans—demands that one have a good relationship with self.
5. In the spiritual life this requires spiritual self-esteem, a mental attitude built on an inventory of ideas made up of principles from the Word of God.
6. Some of the characteristics that describe the believer with spiritual self-esteem are found in:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Christian Suffering*. 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 80-82:

DESCRIPTION OF SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM. The believer with spiritual self-esteem thinks and applies Bible doctrine to life, motivated by his personal love for God. He understands enough doctrine to think independently, having the courage of his own perceptions and doctrinal applications rather than being erroneously influenced by others. Furthermore, he orients to the biblical reality of who and what he is as a member of the royal family of God and at the same time never loses sight of who and what God is. (p. 80)

When a believer has attained spiritual self-esteem, he does not feel threatened by others. He refuses to be manipulated through guilt or fear by those who would impose erroneous, legalistic standards on him. God's logistical grace sustains him, not so he can live up to the expectations of others, but so he can adhere to divine mandates in the protocol plan of God. (pp. 80-81)

The Christian with spiritual self-esteem knows he belongs to a winning plan. He has learned that a fabulous eternal future awaits him after death.

The believer with spiritual self-esteem confidently persists in the plan of God without needing flattery or fanfare, without relying on recognition, encouragement, counsel, inspiration, or bullying from other believers. He leans on no one but God. He does not crave the approval of people or overreact to their indifference, disapproval, or rejection. (p. 81)

Spiritual self-esteem makes the believer a good listener, his genuine humility make him teachable. He appreciates the graciousness of other people and recognizes legitimate authorities including the authority of the pastor who teaches Bible doctrine. Spiritual independence means the believer flourishes within God's structures of human and spiritual authority, not outside His protocol system as a rebel, a crusader, or a self-styled free spirit. (pp. 81-82)

7. The believer that has a good relationship with self has the capacity to have a good relationship with others. This is the result of applying both Bible doctrine and the laws of divine establishment in one's relationship with others.