

VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: From Humility to Honor

From Humility to Honor

Jesus Christ must be revered in the soul of the believer before he can expect to acquire wisdom.

Such reverence is a part of one's personal love for Jesus and an occupation with Him, both of which are indicators of spiritual adulthood.

Consequently, the acquisition of wisdom is a level of thinking which finds its origin in spiritual photosynthesis, namely the Grace Apparatus for Perception.

Orientation to the person and work of Christ to the level of personal love for Him leads to reverence for Him.

Reverence is a mental attitude of submission which forms the basis for advanced spiritual growth culminating in wisdom.

Wisdom is synonymous with our term "*Christian integrity*."

Honor is the outward expression of inner integrity when placed under pressure.

There can be no display of honor without inner integrity.

And Proverbs 15:33 tells us there can be no honor without humility.

Humility is Gate 3 of the Divine Power System. It is the mental attitude of submissiveness which makes the believer teachable.

Therefore, in this verse we see the process of mental cultivation leading to the execution of the Christian way of life.

All God requires of the believer is positive volition and a willingness to learn. That's the humility of Gate 3.

God's places us into the organized humility of His plan at the moment of salvation.

Through pressures, tests, and suffering we are oriented to the plan through enforced humility.

As we adjust to the justice of God we advance to the level of genuine humility.

This is the status of the Philippian believers who willingly cultivated their souls by submitting to the teachings of Paul—the imperative of permission from the verb *katergazomai*.

To willingly submit to imperative moods is an indication of genuine humility.

Under genuine humility GAP advances the believer to spiritual adulthood and the development of personal love for God.

God is One is essence but three in personality.

Proverbs 15:33 tells us that reverence for the Lord, that is, personal love for Him and occupation with Him, is necessary in order to acquire wisdom.

Wisdom is the inner inventory of divine thought possessed in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness.

We are classifying this as Christian integrity which when placed under the pressures of cosmos diabolicus is reflected outwardly as personal honor.

Honor is the outward manifestation of inner integrity and is the execution of the Christian way of life under the function of our ambassadorship.

The question arises, what is the mental attitude of the believer before the development of genuine humility, spiritual adulthood, wisdom, and honor?

Answer: fear and trembling!

From Fear and Trembling to Love and Respect

According to the Bible one of the major sources of human fear is the dread of death.

And along with that fear of death is fear of the one who has the power to execute it.

Our Lord put the objects of our fear into proper perspective in:

Matthew 10:28 - Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in the Lake of Fire.

In this verse, Jesus indicates that there are two individuals who have the power of death. The first has the power of physical death, the second the power of both physical death and spiritual death.

It is the latter, God Himself who should be feared more.

The personality whom our Lord mentions first is Satan. He is said to have the power of physical death in:

Hebrews 2:14 - Since then, the children [believers] share in blood and flesh, He Himself [Christ] likewise also partook of the same [true humanity], in order that through physical death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:15 - and might deliver those who through fear of physical death were subject to slavery all their lives.

The victorious process by which Satan's power of death was rendered powerless is the subject of:

1 Corinthians 15:54 - When the perishable [those who have experienced physical death] will have put on the imperishable [resurrection body] and this mortal [those who are alive at the Rapture] will have put on immortality [resurrection body], then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory." [Isaiah 25:8]

1 Corinthians 15:55 - O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? [Hosea 13:14]

1 Corinthians 15:56 - The sting of death is the sinful nature [Romans 5:12] and the power of the sinful nature is the law; [Romans 7:14]

1 Corinthians 15:57 - but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [Hebrews 2:14, Hebrews 2:15]

Once a person places his faith in Jesus Christ for eternal salvation he enters into an environment of power and grace which will enable him to overcome his fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 - God has not given us a spirit of fear [deilia: fearfulness; cowardice] but of power, and love and mental stability [sophroneo: a mind which has been delivered from danger].

The key to overcoming fear of death is to develop a healthy fear of God. Once the believer develops an appreciation of who and what God is, that fear is converted into reverence.

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.