

Concept of Honor & Shame



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Ancient Near Eastern Societies are all Honor-Shame Cultures

The Message & Covenant of Scripture transcends culture, however the form or structure of that Message & Covenant is culture bound.

WHY?



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HONOR AND DISHONOR

Culture of ANE as well as 1st Century was built on foundational social values of honor and dishonor

Each sub-group had its own honor/dishonor value system with which it evaluated those inside and outside the group.

Shame or dishonor can be used for positive means-shame of adultery, fleeing battle, etc.





Honor & Group Values

“The focus of ancient people on honor and dishonor or shame means that they were particularly oriented toward the approval and disapproval of others. This orientation meant that individuals were likely to strive to embody the qualities and to perform the behaviors that the group held to be honorable and to avoid those acts that brought reproach and caused a person’s estimation in the eyes of others to drop.”

David Arthur DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*



Simply Stated...

“HONOR IS YOUR PUBLIC REPUTATION”



HONOR-SHAME CULTURE SOCIETIES

“While the powerful and the masses, the philosophers and the Jews, the pagans and the Christians all regarded honor and dishonor as their primary axis of value, each group would fill out the picture of what constituted honorable behavior or character in terms of its own distinctive set of beliefs and values, and would evaluate people both inside and outside that group accordingly”—Desilva “*Honor and Shame*”

Honor & Shame

HONOR & SHAME

"In such a social setting honor is a commodity and is in high demand. There is a very short supply to be distributed among the group; as a result, those who seek it do so intensely and with great regularity.

They fight to obtain and protect this social necessity. Because of this, there is an ongoing bout to acquire this commodity. The vastness of challenges to one's honor invades every arena of social life in the first century. No one is safe from this challenge. Everyone has a social 'Achilles' heel to his or her honor, and any location, from personal to public, may become a place to stage war against another's honor in the hope of gaining it for one's self."

Fred Chay- The Bema Seat: Its Background of Shame and Honor



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TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH HONOR -SHAME

HONOR

- Glory (doxa)
- Reputation (doxa)
- Honor (tima)
- Praise (epainos)
- Blessed (makarios)

DISHONOR-SHAME

- Dishonor (aischunē)
- Reproach (oneidos)
- Scorn (kataphronēsis)
- Slander (blasphēmia)
- Woe (ouai)

Apostle Ambassador Dominion Immortal Righteous Sanctified Remembered
Royal **King** Crown **Kingdom** Priesthood Anointed Heirs
Conquer Majesty Ring Robe **Reign** Holy Clean **Better** Chosen **Pleased**
Warrior **Might** Beauty Exalted Throne Renown Pure Elect **Adopted** Pleasing
Worthy **Greater** Great Glorious **Inheritance** Offspring **Children** Loved
Awesome Worship Authority High White Glorify **Name** **Father** Beloved
Overcome **Power** Rise Bright Above **Glory** Honorable Life **Son**
Approved Freedom Raised Highest Over Honored **Blood** Respect
Free Lifted up Bless **Family** **Head**
Confidence **Blessing** Bless Face **Right hand**
Pride **Blessing** Boast Friend Right arm Strong
Boasting Boastful Elder Inside

Reviled **Cursing** Younger Outside
Accursed Cursed **shame** **Slave** Least **Feet**
Mocking Humiliation Weak Under Below Lesser
Naked Spit upon **Ashamed** Dishonor Stranger Alien **Fallen**
Rejected Cut off Defeated Dark Hidden Imprisoned Oppressed
Crucified Fear **Death** Darkness Captivity Reproach
Crushed Suffered Despised Rejected Diseased **Persecuted** Byword
Smitten Afflicted Unclean **Sick** Forgotten
Desolate Impure

HONOR IS OWED BY AN INFERIOR TO A SUPERIOR

By the Young to the Elderly-Lev19:32, Isa 3:5, Lam 5:12

By the Worshiper to his or here deity- Exod 20:3, Deut 5:7, Hag 1:8,
Mal 1:6

By a child to the parents-Exod 20:12, Deut 5:16, Ezek 22:7

By the living to the dead-Isa 14:18

By the dishonored to the Honored- Isa 3:5



6 MAIN ELEMENTS TO HONOR & SHAME CULTURE

- ✓ ASCRIBED HONOR
- ✓ ACQUIRED HONOR
- ✓ CHALLENGE & RIPOSTE
- ✓ MAINTAINING OF HONOR BY MEANS OF AN OATH
 - ✓ HONOR STATUS REVERSAL
 - ✓ ROLE,STATUS=HONOR,SHAME





1. ASCRIBED HONOR

“Ascribed honor is the social claim to status of a person attributed to him by birth or genealogy. Normally such honor is already received at birth⁵⁴ and derives mostly from the lineage. Since kinship was the most important institution in antiquity, birth into a ‘noble’ family immediately meant ascribed worth in the eyes of the family’s peers; the family itself would make claims to worth on behalf of its offspring, these being most commonly expressed when a marriage was being arranged. Within that family, siblings have differing degrees of ascribed honor.”-

*GUARDING THE PARENTS’ HONOUR—DEUTERONOMY 21.18-21**

Anselm C. Hagedorn

1. ASCRIBED HONOR

“Therefore it is quite understandable why the ancients referred to themselves always as ‘son of’. Naturally that ascribed honor has to be guarded very carefully; even though you cannot lose it, you can easily bring shame on your family if your behavior is disrespectful and shameful. Thus the corporate honor of the family or group has to be observed and protected”

*GUARDING THE PARENTS' HONOUR—DEUTERONOMY 21.18-21**

Anselm C. Hagedorn

A PERSON'S LINEAGE THEREFORE BECOMES THEIR STARTING POINT OF HONOR

John Chapter One “Son of”

Joh 1:34 “And I have seen and have witnessed that this is the **Son of Elohim.**”

Joh 1:49-51 Nethanĕ’I answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the **Son of Elohim!** You are the Sovereign of Yisra’ĕl!” (50) יהושע answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? Greater than that you shall see.” (51) And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, from now on you shall see the heaven opened, and the messengers of Elohim ascending and descending upon the **Son of Adam.**”



A Higher Honor

Matthew and Luke both describe Yeshua's Lineage to King David.
John gives us Yeshua's Lineage to YHWH and to the Dynasty of the
Eternal Kingdom!



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2. ACQUIRED HONOR

“Acquired honor is the status built up by persons over their lifespan. A military victory or social interaction involving ‘challenge and riposte’ or benefaction are normal fields where honor can be gained. Military victory and benefaction were open only to elites; non-elites, who made up at least 90% of the ancient population, could normally achieve prestige only through agonistic behavior which was socially sanctioned in the common game of push-and-shove (‘challenge and riposte’).⁶¹ Anyone in a village or neighborhood who claimed special respect based on achievement was likely to be challenged by others because of the pervasive perception of ‘limited good’.”

Sons of Zebedee Seek to Acquire Honor in Kingdom

Mat 20:20-28 Then the mother of the sons of Zabdai came to Him with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. (21) And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that these two sons of mine might sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your reign." (22) But יהושע answering, said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and to be immersed with the immersion that I am immersed with?" They said to Him, "We are able." (23) And He said to them, "You shall indeed drink My cup, and you shall be immersed with the immersion that I am immersed with. But to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." (24) And when the ten heard it, they were displeased at the two brothers. (25) But יהושע called them near and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles are masters over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. (26) "But it shall not be so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you, let him be your servant. (27) "And whoever wishes to be first among you, let him be your servant, (28) even as the Son of Adam did not come to be served, but to serve,¹ and to give His life as a ransom for many."



BUILDING UP A NAME OR REPUTATION
ENHANCES ONE'S ACQUIRED HONOR
BY MEANS OF HIS DEEDS.



3. CHALLENGE & RIPOSTE

"The challenge-riposte is essentially an attempt to gain honor at someone else's expense by publicly posing a challenge that cannot be answered. When a challenge has been posed, the challenged must make some sort of response (and no response is also considered a response). It falls to the bystanders to decide whether or not the challenged person successfully defended his (and, indeed, usually "his") own honor."

-David Desilva "Honor, Patronage & Purity"



3. CHALLENGE & RIPOSTE

Four Steps to the Push and Shove Game.

- ✓ Claim of worth or value
- ✓ Challenge to that Claim
- ✓ Riposte or defense of the claim
- ✓ Public verdict of Success awarded to either claimant or challenger.

Jerome Neyrey: Honor & Shame in the Gospel of Matthew

THE RIPOSTE OR RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGE
MUST BE HELD TO THE INTEGRITY OF TRUTH AND
ACTION.

NOT MERELY WORDS.



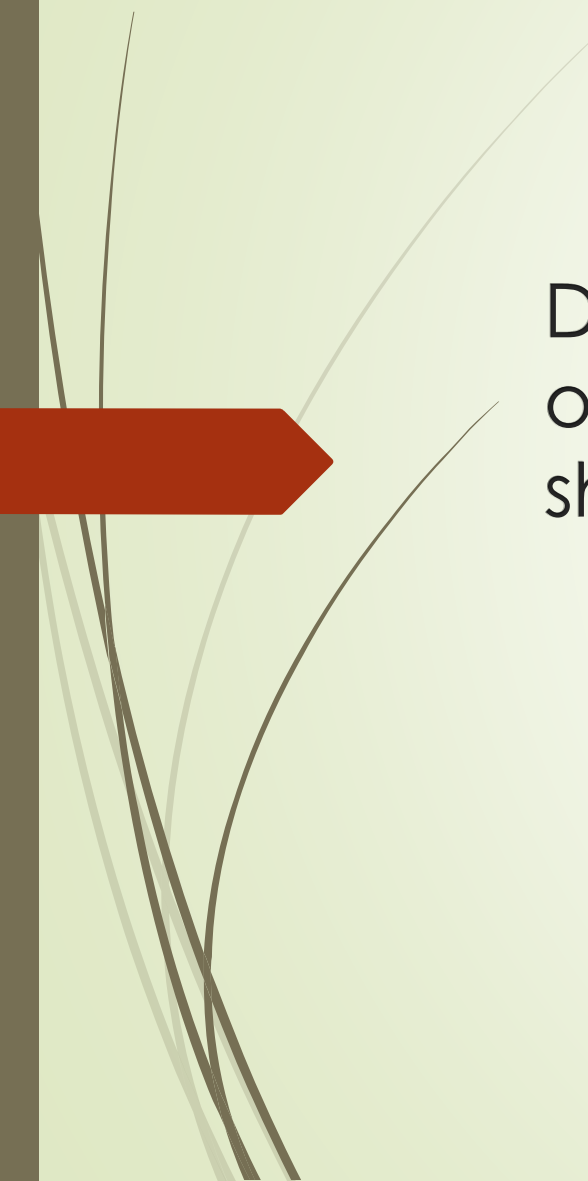
HONOR

Matthew Twenty-Two:15-46

The Challenge & Riposte Between Yeshua, the Pharisees,
and the Sadducees



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Do you know what the greatest riposte/response of YHWH and Yeshua is to those who attempt to shame and challenge the Honor of the King?



DEATH
DISHONOR

Resurrection.

Heb 12:1-2 We too, then, having so great a cloud of witnesses all around us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race set before us, (2) looking to the Princely Leader and Perfecter of our belief, יהושע, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the stake, having despised the **shame**, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohim.



4. INTEGRITY OF HONOR BY MEANS OF OATH

Hence the importance of the oath in relation to honor. It commits the honor of the swearer just as 'crossed fingers' liberate it and aims to eliminate the ambiguity as to his true intentions. By invoking that which is sacred to him - his God, the bones of saints, his loyalty to his sovereign, the health of his mother or simply his own honor - he activates an implicit curse against himself in the eventuality of his failure to implement his oath or, at least, he assures that public opinion is entitled to judge him dishonored. Moreover, he cannot attain the honor of the person to whom he is bound by oath by deceiving him. The latter is untouched by his deceit. If he proves false, the dishonor is his alone ; retribution can be left to public opinion or to the Gods".

-Julian Pitt Rivers



HOW MUCH MORE SO WE WHO HAVE BOUND
OURSELVES BY OATH TO YESHUA WHEN INVOLKING
ROMANS 10:9?



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Romans Ten

Rom 10:8-11 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” – that is, the word of belief which we are proclaiming: (9) That if you confess with your mouth the Master יהושע and believe in your heart that Elohim has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, and so is saved. (11) Because the Scripture says, “Whoever puts his trust in Him shall not be put to **shame**.”



5.Honor Status Reversal

This is when someone has an initial amount of honor, either ascribed or achieved, but then goes through a shaming period when his/her honor is diminished and then is reversed back to its original status at a later time.

Honor Status Reversal in Scripture.



Joseph


Israel

Yeshua

Mankind



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6. Role & Status = Honor or Shame



Role and Status in the Fourth Gospel: Cutting Through Confusion By Jerome Neyrey

Examining “Role and Status”



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“Role”

Role. The concept of “role,” borrowed from the stage, involves behavior and the socially recognized position of a person, entailing rights and duties. A role implies a set of expectations for interaction between a person who holds one position in a group and another person who holds a reciprocal position. In other words, there can be no role of ‘leader’ without a ‘follower’ role, no mother without child. as several anthropologists define it, “role” is a set of expected behavior patterns, obligations, and norms attached to a particular status. The distinction between status and role is a simple one: you “occupy” a certain status, but you “play” a role. . . as a student you occupy a certain status that differs from that of your teacher, administrators, or other staff. As you occupy that status you perform by attending lectures, taking notes, participating in class, and studying for examinations. This concept of role is derived from the theater and refers to the parts played by actors on the stage. If you are a husband, mother, son, daughter, teacher, lawyer, judge, male or female, you are expected to behave in certain ways because of the norms associated with that particular status

“Status”

Status. Whereas persons play certain roles, they occupy or have status. “Status” differs from “role” in that status is “a recognized position that a person occupies within society. . .[which] determines where he or she fits in relationship to everyone else.” In addition, one scholar defines status as “a quality entailing deference and precedence in interaction, a quality of professional or public honor. . .Status systems are generated by bases or dimensions of honor – power, wealth, knowledge.” “Status” suggests verticality, a ranking of people according to cultural criteria of worth or excellence.¹⁶ It indicates the honor, respect, or worth a person enjoys. Thus statuses are thought of as “polar or reciprocal: any particular status always implies at least one other to which it is related.” For example, some statuses may be first or last, highest or lowest, most or least or best or worst.

Yeshua's "Roles of Honor" in Chapter One

Being the Word

Being the Light

Being the Son of Elohim

Being the Lamb of Elohim

Being the Messiah

Being the Sovereign of Israel



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TWO CATEGORIES IN WHICH HONOR & SHAME IS BESTOWED

- ✓ Ascribed Honor or Ascribed Shame
- ✓ Acquired Honor or Acquired Shame





THE SEED OF MAN= SHAME

ALL ELSE OUTSIDE OF YHWH'S SEED OF PROMISE, HIS
HONOR AND HIS COVENANT IS EQUAL TO DISHONOR,
DEATH & SHAME



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THE SEED OF PROMISE= HONOR

LINEAGE THRU ABRAHAM ,ISAAC AND JACOB BY
MEANS OF NATURAL OR BEING GRAFTED INTO,
OATH, AND DEEDS OF HONOR = LIFE= SEED OF
PROMISE.



HONOR