



## Daily Verse and Comment

### Romans 13:7

(7) Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

*New International Version*

According to the thesaurus, *honor* has these synonyms: "esteem, respect, pay homage to, assign value to." The Greek word translated "honor" in our English Bibles, *timao*, means "to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere" (*Strong's Concordance*). Showing honor, then, means treating another respectfully because we value them highly.

So is honor due *anyone*? Should we put value on any man or woman, or should we honor [God](#) alone? What does the Bible say? A study with a concordance reveals just how much God has to say about honoring others. He does not limit it to honoring our parents.

This verse tells us clearly honor is due certain ones, but it begs the questions: To whom is honor due besides God? And how do we honor others?

The truth is that we will never sincerely respect, prize, value, or honor anyone until and unless we start with an attitude of [meekness](#). Honoring and respecting others will not happen when a superior or holier-than-thou attitude is present. Paul tells us to "esteem others better than" ourselves ( [Philippians 2:3](#)).

When we truly [repent](#) of what we are, and how we regularly fall short of God's [holiness](#), we *cannot* remain in a pompous mood. Perhaps we can learn from some of those who have lived God's way before us. John the Baptist says of himself: "He [[Christ](#)] must increase, but I must decrease" ([John 3:30](#)). Paul considers himself "the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle" ([I Corinthians 15:9](#)). He also writes that he is "less than the

least of all the saints" ([Ephesians 3:8](#)). History will conclude otherwise, but it opens a window into Paul's thinking. When we dishonor others, it is a sure sign we are thinking of ourselves or others wrongly. We are to [love](#) others as ourselves, honoring them.

Honoring from a pure motive is possible only when we have a proper perspective of who God is, what we are, and who others are in relation to us and God. It begins with deep honor and respect for God—and thus for all He says. The first four commandments lay the foundation for doing this.

— Staff

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