



THEOLOGY TERMS REDEFINED **for HonorShame Contexts**

God interacts with his creation as a faithful benefactor, yet remains uniquely exalted by virtue of his infinite honor, which is manifested in his covenantal loyalty and absence of blemish. As the sole sovereign capable of imparting eternal honor, he is the most respected of all beings.

Humanity, once destined for great honor in God's creation, is now defined by inherited shamefulfulness, yet possesses hope of restoration.

Sin, inherited from Adam and perpetuated by continual perfidy, means defilement, shamefulfulness and unacceptability.

Death is the ultimate state of shame, powerlessness, defilement and rejection which befalls all humans; such vulnerability produces a terrifying sense of worthlessness.

Torah functioned as a charter outlining the means to honor for ethnic Israel. The incarnation is when the most honored voluntarily assumed a shameful state to mediate his honor to the shamed.

The **kingdom of God** inaugurated by Jesus is the presence of God's newly accessible honor. The atonement explores not only how God's wrath is turned away, but how God's opinion of the shameful violator has been reversed.

The **gospel** is the good news that God's long-standing plan to redignify people has climaxed with the incarnation, life and resurrection of Jesus.

Repentance for the proud is abandoning humanly concocted, belligerent efforts of procuring status and for the marginalised means rejecting the hopeless unbelief of failing to trust God's power to remove one's shame.

Faith is exclusive trust in Jesus as the new source of divine honor and ongoing loyalty to God as patron. Grace is not merely the pardon of violations, but proactive acceptance and welcoming of the shamed.

Baptism displays the believer's transposition from a state of defilement and blemish to a state of cleanness and wholeness which is suitable for presentation to the holy one.

Satan and his allied forces counter God's purpose by exalting themselves, fuelling cultural systems of false honor, defiling humans with demonic association and crushing human dignity.

Justification, formulated by Paul to counter the mistaken Jewish notion that covenantal membership was maintained by adherence to particular ethnic badges, signifies how believers are set in right relationship with the Creator and considered true covenant members with restored glory as a divine gift.

Ethics is how we reject cultural forms of group engineering and extend honor in social relationships according to God's righteous code of honor, regardless of whatever temporary shame is borne.

Mission is bearing witness, in both word and deed, to the truth of God's honor now available in Christ.

Adapted from article "Dignification: An Exegetical Soteriology of Honor" (SJT, 2013).

