



THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS for HonorShame Contexts

The most important thing in a person's life is their family and honor. We all want to be honored, and be part of a group with a good reputation. Let's look at how you can be honored by God and become part of God's honored family

Act 1: The Intention of God – Honor Granted

The honorable God created humans to also be honorable. God created Adam and Eve as his children; they were to be pure and faithful. Humans had God's name, reputation, honor, home, authority, dominion and prestige. They were God's children.

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... What is man that you are mindful of him? And the son of man, that you visit him? For you have made him a little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor. You make him to have dominion over the works of their hands. You have put all things under his feet." (Psalm 8:1, 4-6)

If God created us with such honor, why do we now strive to cover our shame and obtain honor? What happened?

Act 2: The Problem of Humanity – Shame Introduced

Adam did not honor God as an obedient and loyal son. When Adam did not obey God, he had great shame and had to be banished from God's family.

"Therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man." (Genesis 3:23-24a)

We are all children of Adam who inherit Adam's shame and add our own shame through personal disobedience and unfaithfulness. When we strive to create our own honor, we ultimately dishonor God and increase our shame before Him. In God's eyes we have more shame than a crazy, homeless person. Because of our shame, we are distanced from God.

"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

We humans are so defiled that even our good deeds are not clean. Our defilements come from our hearts, not anything we touch.

"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all of our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment." (Isaiah 64:6)

"There is nothing outside of a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." (Mark 7:15)

All cultures and religions have ways to for people to obtain honor in the community's eyes, but we nevertheless remain shamed before our Creator. Our traditions are just bandages on the surface, but we need an operation on our heart. If we are dirty, unfaithful, and shamed before God, how can our shame be removed and our honor restored?

Act 3: The Final Solution – Shame Removed and Honor Restored

Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our shame can be removed and our honor restored. Jesus is like the father's oldest, most-honored son who left the father's home to come and find us. When he found us, he exchanged his royal robe for our filthy rags, and sent us back to the father's house.

Jesus showed God's love toward the shamed people of society when he love and included prostitutes, lepers, sick, and pagans into his new group that was God's family. When Jesus died on the cross, he publically experienced and bore our shame upon himself. Jesus was able to bear our shame because he was the only human to live without shame before God.

“And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns; they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and took the reed and struck his on the head. And when they had mocked him they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.” (Matthew 27:28-31)

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one who from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:3)

But when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, he was granted a position of honor and prestige at God's right hand. But it is not enough to know what God did to remove our shame and restore or honor.

Act 4: The Response for Salvation – Honor Accepted

If we want to be considered an honorable child in God's family, then we must trust in Jesus.

“Whoever believes in him (Jesus) will not be put to shame. So honor is for you who believe.” (1 Peter 2:6b-7a)

“We are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:16a-17)

Through Jesus we can have honor and we will never be shamed in God's eyes.

“God raised us up with him (Jesus) and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

Conclusion



David once sang, *“My salvation and my honor depend on God.” (Psalm 62:7)*. This means that no matter how prestigious our family name is or how great our reputation, the only honor that is important is the honor God gives. God’s opinion of us is far more important than others’.

We are not honored because we are honorable, but because God has chosen to honor us. *“He (God) raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and on them he has set the world.” (1 Samuel 2:8)*

If you want God to remove your shame and give you honor, you can pray the following:

“God I am in need of you. I confess that I am unfaithful to you and my heart is impure. I thank you Jesus that you took my shame and offers me honor. I thank you for the new identity you give me and for making me a part of your family, God. I believe in you Jesus alone for honor and acceptance into God’s family. I trust that I will never be put to shame before you and that you will honor me. As I promise to follow with my entire life, make me the person you want me to be.

