

Summary of the Royal Family Honor Code: Objectivity, Spiritual Gift Function, Nonhypocritical, Deference, Due Diligence, Esprit de Corps, Speak Well of Others

VII. Summary of the Royal Family Honor Code:

1. Honor Code Principle #1: Stop being self-centered. This is an expression of arrogance. Arrogant people are always able to see the faults of others but never those of themselves. The honor code demands that we deal with others objectively.

Romans 12:3 - I say through the grace that has been given to me to everyone who is among you: stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think, but rather think in terms of objectivity as God has assigned us a standard of thinking from doctrine.

2. Honor Code Principle #2: Spiritual freedom allows believers to function from their own spiritual gift. Never force a person to function beyond his own norms and standards, especially in the area of spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:4 - Just as we have parts in one body [eyes, ears, hands, feet] and all parts do not have the same function [seeing, hearing, feeling, walking],

v. 5 - so we the many are one body in Christ [individual members of the royal family who make up the universal church, the heavenly community, the body of Christ], and individually parts one of another [spiritual functions within a spiritual body].

3. Honor Code Principle #3: Unconditional love toward all mankind does not require you to compromise truth.

Romans 12:9 - Your unconditional love should be (1) non-hypocritical [do not address others' sins with cosmic problem-solving devices]. (2) Detest evil [unconditionally love the doer but not his deed]. (3) Adhere to (4) the good [detest the lie but adhere to the truth].

- (1) **Nonhypocritical**: ἀνυπόκριτος, *anupokritos*: not good at acting on the stage; dissimulation: to hide under false pretenses. Came to mean hypocrisy or pretense.
- (2) **Detest**: ἀποστύγγω, *apostugeō*: to shrink away from; to loath.
- (3) **Adhere**: καλλάομαι, *kallaomai*: to weld together; used in Ephesians 5:31 for sexual intercourse.
- (4) **The good**: ἀγαθός, *agathos*: refers to the three-fold function of the advancing believer: (1) the double-column advance to spiritual maturity by means of the grace apparatus for perception, (2) the inculcation and execution of the royal family honor code, and (3) fulfillment of the plan of God by moving through the seven imputations of the X + Y + Z radicals culminating in the reception of escrow blessings in time.

4. Honor Code Principle #4: Unconditional love among believers requires the same devotion to each other as found among family members. Also, have the willingness to show deference to other believers as a matter of honor and protocol.

Romans 12:10 - With reference to your brotherly love, be devoted to each other [the church is a fraternal organization made up of those who are united by the imputation of divine righteousness]; with reference to honor, let each one of you esteem others more highly than yourself [show deference to other believers as a matter of honor and protocol; remain nonjudgmental].

NOTE: The concept of honor among members of the royal family can be illustrated from literature. For this we pull excerpts from:

Hall, Joseph, "Characters of Virtues and Vices: The Honest Man," in *The Literature of England*, 3d ed., edited by George B. Woods, Homer A. Watt, and George K. Anderson (Chicago: Scott, Foresman, & Co., 1947), 1:616:

He looks not to what he might do, but what he should. He hates sin more for the indignity of it, than the danger. His word is his parchment and yea his oath; which he will not violate, for fear, or for loss. All his dealings are square, and above the board. When his name is traduced [i.e., maligned] his innocency bears him out with courage: then, lo, he goes on in the plain way of truth, and will either triumph in his integrity, or suffer with it. His conscience overrules his providence: so as, in all things, good or ill, he respects the nature of the actions, not the sequel. If he sees what he must do, let God see what shall follow. He never loads himself with burdens above his strength, beyond his will; and, once bound, what he can, he will do. His ear is the sanctuary of his absent friend's name, of his present friend's secret: neither of them can miscarry, in his trust. He would rather want than borrow, and beg than not pay. He loves actions above words. Finally, he hates falsehood worse than death: he is a faithful client of truth; no man's enemy; and, if there were no heaven, yet he would be virtuous. (1608)

5. Honor Code Principle #5: Failure to persevere in the inculcation of doctrine has a negative impact on one's application of the honor code. Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, consistent service to our Lord is maintained.

Romans 12:11 - With regard to your due diligence [σπουδή, *spoudē*: the attention and care due from a person in a given situation, specifically that incumbent upon the parties to a contract (*Oxford English Dictionary*); we are under contract with God to grow in grace by means of Bible study], do not be negligent; with reference to the Holy Spirit be zealous [ζέω, *zeō*: to boil: used figuratively for fervent desire and motivation] when serving the Lord.

6. Honor Code Principle #6: Through confidence in our eternal future we are with esprit de corps to stand fast in the face of undeserved suffering.

Romans 12:12 - With reference to confidence in the eternal future, have esprit de corps [a common spirit within a group inspiring devotion and strong regard for the honor of the group]; with reference to undeserved suffering, stand fast [to persevere, endure, bear up under pressure]. Be persistent in prayer [where information is lacking then appeal to the Supreme Court of Heaven for direction and guidance is advised].

7. Honor Code Principle #7: Maintain poise and objectivity when fellow believers malign you. Never make excuses. Never retaliate.

Romans 12:14 - Speak well of those who persecute you; keep on speaking well and do not curse [καταράομαι, *kataraoimai*: to wish evil upon someone; to offer imprecatory prayer] them [justice is in God's jurisdiction; defer to His just Authority, let Him prosecute the case, and you stay out of the way].