



THE SPIRIT OF HONOUR

Learning from David's Example with Saul

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"The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."

1 Samuel 24:6

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There are always opportunities for dishonour. In any situation – whether, for example, in the government, workplace, or the church – there are bound to be those who complain. If you are a person of honour, you will help address these complaints and attempt to resolve them.



Of course, being a person of honour does not mean never speaking up. Quite the reverse. It has been said, 'Honour means I am with you whether you are wrong or right. But I will tell you when you are wrong and help you get it right.'



WHAT IS HONOR?

Biblical Definition

"Esteem, value, or great respect"

To honor someone is to value them highly or bestow value upon them

Honor only becomes apparent in relationships, through our actions

"Giving honour actually releases the life of God into a situation."

- Bill Johnson

Key Insight

When we interact with honor, we allow the presence and power of God into whatever situation we are in



THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF HONOR



All authority and honor belong to God alone
(1 Chronicles 29:11)



We honor those in authority because they represent God's ultimate authority
Authority figures are God's representatives in their positions

"Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king"

1 Peter 2:17

To dishonor authority is to dishonor God



DAVID'S IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION



Anointed as Future King

Samuel anointed David by God's command to be the next king of Israel



Served Faithfully in Saul's Court

Played music to soothe Saul, served as armor bearer, showed complete loyalty



Saul Became Jealous

After David's victory over Goliath, Saul became jealous and tried to kill him multiple times



Pursued by 3,000 Men

Forced to flee into the wilderness, hunted like a criminal by the king's army



THE CAVE ENCOUNTER

1 Samuel 24

The Setup

-  Saul entered the cave where David was hiding
-  David's men urged him to kill Saul
-  David only cut off a corner of Saul's robe
-  He was conscience-stricken even for this small act

David's Response

-  Rebuked his men and protected Saul
-  Prostrated himself before Saul
-  Showed the piece of robe as proof of mercy
-  Asked God to judge between them

"The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."

THREE DIMENSIONS OF DAVID'S HONOR



1. DAVID HONORED GOD

- Faithful in all circumstances
- Sought God's guidance
- Trusted in God's timing
- Servant of the Lord



2. DAVID HONORED SAUL

- Served despite mistreatment
- Showed patience and peace
- Protected God's anointed
- Respected authority



3. DAVID HONORED HIMSELF

- Knew his God-given identity
- Maintained integrity
- Humble yet confident
- Waited for God's timing

Honor God, honor each other, and honor ourselves - this is all about identity, knowing who we are in Christ



HONOR RECOGNIZES GOD'S AUTHORITY

Key Principle

David honored Saul not because of his character, but because of God's anointing upon him



Honor is Fundamentally About God

It recognizes God's sovereignty and His choices in placing people in authority



Honor the Position

We honor the position and God's anointing, not necessarily the person's character



God's Anointed Leaders

Saul - "The Lord's Anointed"

David's Response: Honor & Submission

"He is the anointed of the Lord"
- David's Consistent Declaration



HONOR TRANSCENDS PERSONAL OFFENSE

Core Truth

True honor is not dependent on how we are treated

⚠ David's Mistreatment

- Spears thrown at him multiple times
- Hunted like a criminal
- Pursued by 3,000 armed men
- Forced to live in caves and wilderness
- Saul's jealousy and unreasonable rage

♥ Honor's True Source

Honor flows from our relationship with God, not from circumstances or how others treat us

🛡 David's Consistent Response

Despite all mistreatment, David continued to honor Saul with patience, peace, and protection

What This Requires

Spiritual maturity and the Holy Spirit's power to esteem others above ourselves



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HONOR

Honor Releases God's Presence

When we give honor, we create an atmosphere where God can work powerfully, bringing transformation and breakthrough

Creates Supernatural Environments

Honor creates environments where God's presence and power can manifest, opening hearts and changing situations

Saul's Response to David's Honor



Wept aloud when he realized David's mercy



Acknowledged his wrongdoing and David's righteousness



Prophetically declared David would be king



The relationship was temporarily restored

The Honor Transformation Process

David Acts with Honor



God's Presence Released



Hearts Opened



Relationships Transformed



LIVING THE SPIRIT OF HONOUR TODAY



Honor is About Identity

Honor recognizes who people are in God's eyes, not their current performance or behavior



Honor is Proactive

Honor is given freely, not earned or deserved. We don't wait for others to honor us first



Honor Chooses God's Ways

Honor requires choosing God's ways over human wisdom, even when it seems costly



Honor Prepares for Leadership

Honor prepares us for greater responsibility and authority in God's kingdom

"A culture of honor is celebrating who a person is without stumbling over who they're not"

- Bill Johnson



THE CHALLENGE FOR CHURCH LEADERS

The Question Before Us

Will we create cultures of honor that release God's presence and transform our communities?



God's Presence
Released



Relationships
Transformed

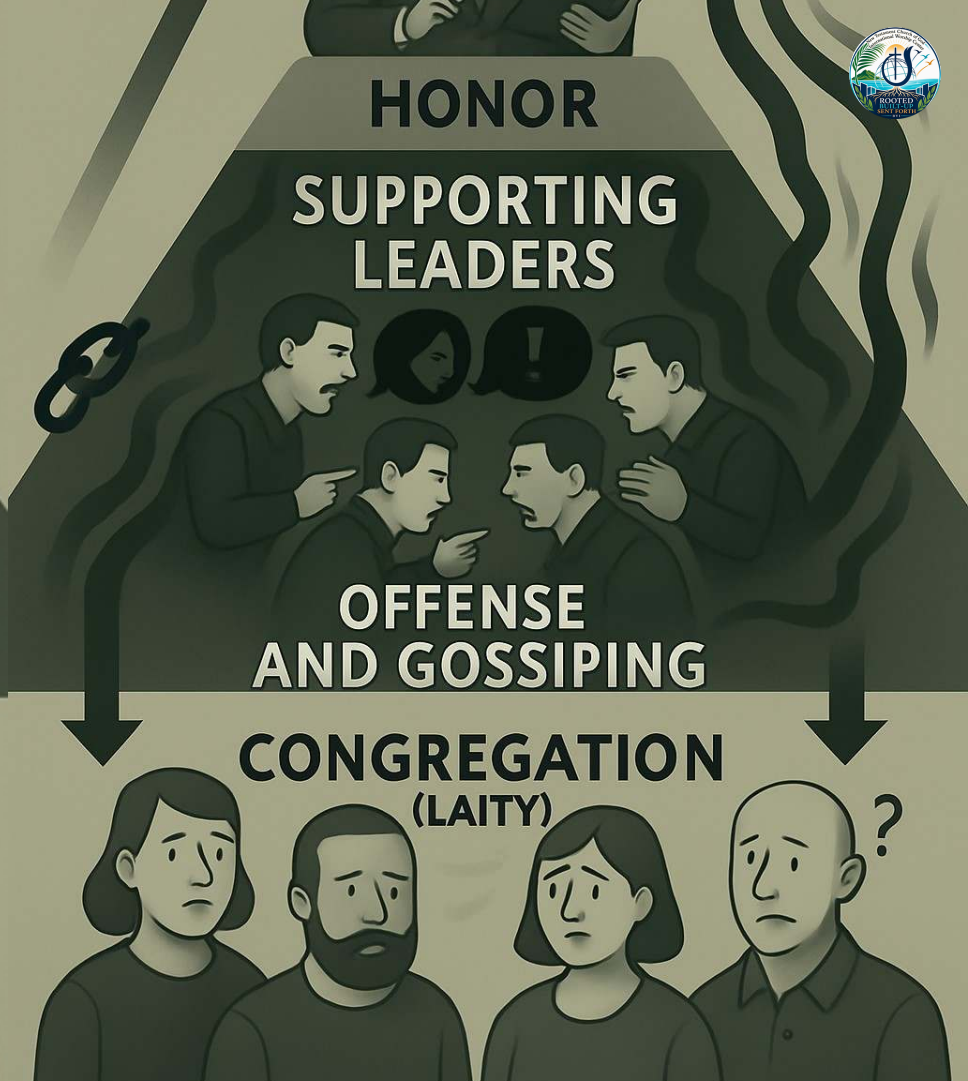


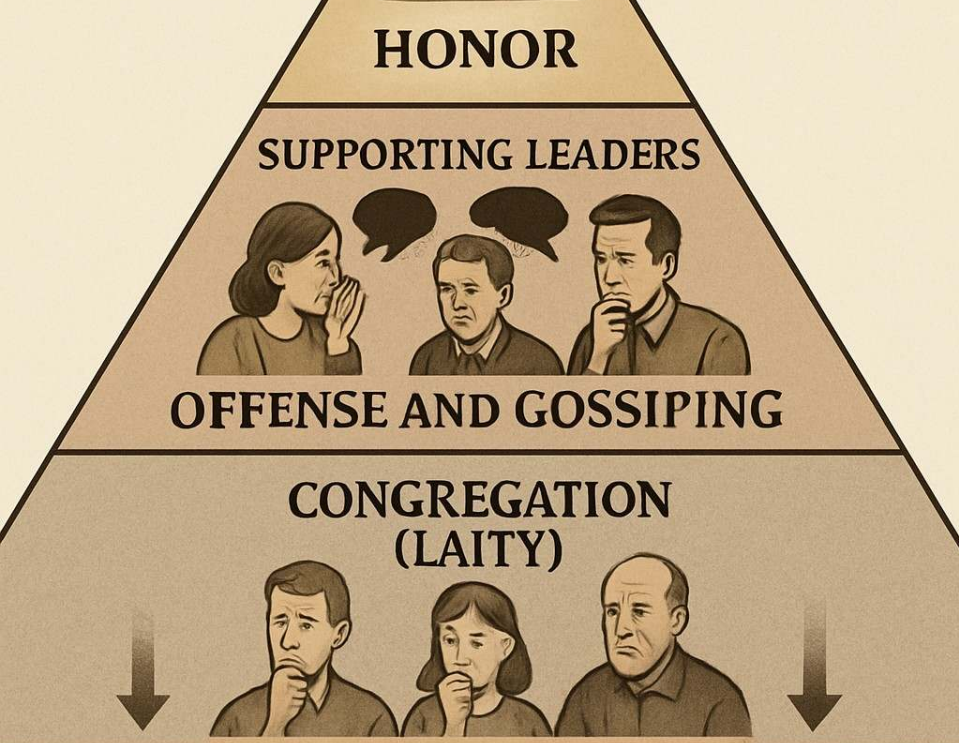
Character Developed



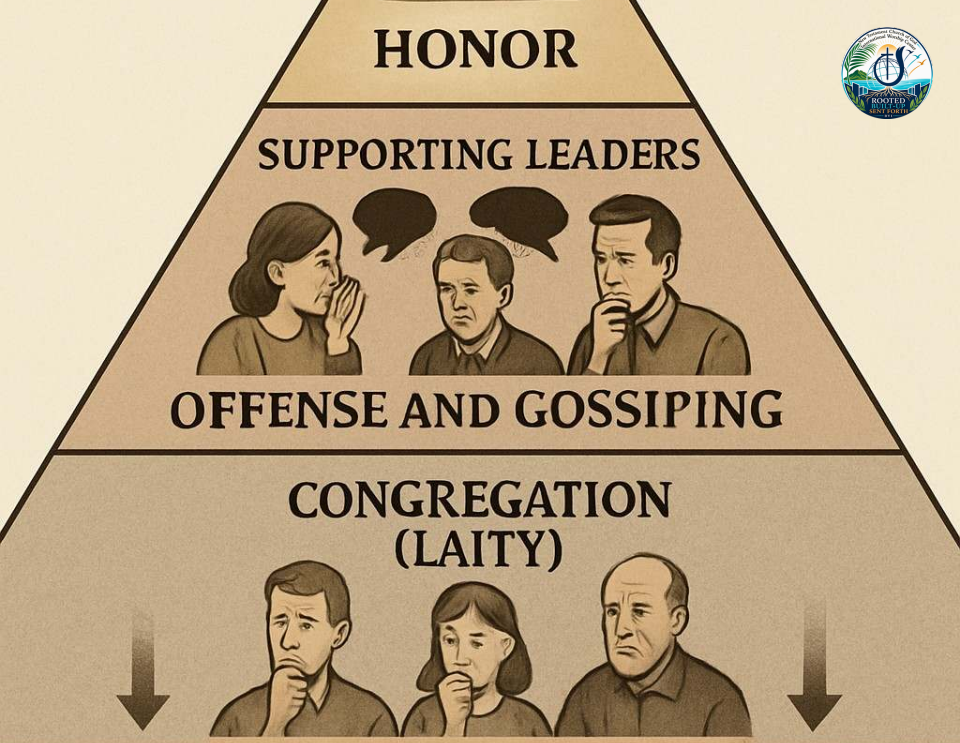
Communities
Impacted

The Spirit of Honour: Reflecting God's Character in Our Leadership





SINNERS DYING IN THEIR SIN



SINNERS DYING IN THEIR SIN





HONOUR
GOD

HONOUR
PARENTS

HONOUR OLD PEOPLE

HONOUR CHURCH LEADERS

HONOUR GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

HONOUR SPOUSE

HONOUR FELLOW BELIEVERS

HONOUR
GOD

HONOUR
PARENTS

HONOUR OLD PEOPLE

HONOUR CHURCH LEADERS

HONOUR GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

HONOUR SPOUSE

HONOUR FELLOW BELIEVERS



HONOR VS. COMPROMISE: THE BIBLICAL DISTINCTION



BIBLICAL HONOR

"Giving up our own thoughts, opinions, and preferences for the sake of another"

- Respects God-given authority
- Maintains personal integrity
- Covers others' weaknesses with love
- Seeks God's glory above all

Result: Pleases God, hurts only our pride



COMPROMISE

"Giving up God's thoughts, opinions, and preferences for the sake of another"

- Violates God's standards
- Sacrifices truth for peace
- Enables sin and dysfunction
- Seeks human approval over God's

Result: Grieves God, ruins everyone involved

We must obey God rather than man when human authority conflicts with divine authority
Acts 5:29



CASE STUDY: NOAH AND HIS SONS

Genesis 9:20-27

DISHONOR

Ham's Response

- Saw his father's nakedness
- Told his brothers about it
- Exposed his father's shame
- Showed no respect or covering

The Problem

Ham exposed rather than covered his father's weakness

HONOR

Shem & Japheth's Response

- Took a garment to cover Noah
- Walked backward to avoid seeing
- Turned their faces away
- Protected their father's dignity

The Principle

Honor covers and protects, even when leaders fail

Honor doesn't ignore sin, but it covers shame and protects dignity while addressing the issue appropriately



DAVID'S HONOR TOWARD SAUL

1 Samuel 24, 26



How David Honored Saul



Refused to harm "the Lord's anointed"



Spared Saul's life twice



Showed respect for God's authority



Trusted God's timing for justice



Mourned when Saul died



Restrained his men from violence

"The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."

David's Declaration - 1 Samuel 24:6



DAVID'S BOUNDARIES AND APPLICATION



David's Healthy Boundaries

- Fled when Saul pursued him unjustly
- Refused to participate in Saul's sin
- Protected innocent people from Saul's rage
- Spoke truth about Saul's wrong actions
- Maintained his own integrity

David honored the position while refusing to enable the sin



Key Principles

- Honor doesn't require enabling dysfunction
- Boundaries protect both parties
- Truth can be spoken with honor
- God's timing brings justice
- Integrity must be maintained

Honor the office, address the behavior



DAVID'S BOUNDARIES AND APPLICATION

Application for Church Leaders

- ⚖️ Honor the office, address the behavior.
- 👉 Set boundaries without dishonoring.
- 🕒 Trust God's timing for justice.
- 💖 Maintain love while protecting the truth.

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 1 Timothy 5:1



THE SPIRIT OF FAMILIARIZATION



A dangerous spiritual force that destroys honor, limits God's power, and undermines leadership effectiveness through over-familiarity.

"A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

- Matthew 13:57

The Danger Defined

- Knowing someone so well you lose respect for them
- Seeing the human side and missing the divine calling
- Becoming presumptuous and crossing boundaries
- Losing admiration for God's gifts in people
- Blocking the flow of God's power

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION: MATTHEW 13:53-58



The Text

"When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?' they asked. 'Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?' And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.' And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."

Matthew 13:53-58 (NIV)



The Analysis

- **They were amazed** His teaching was powerful and undeniable
- **"Isn't this the carpenter's son?"**
 - They focused on His background, not His calling
- **They knew His family**
 - Familiarity with His human side blinded them
- **"They took offense"** Familiarity bred contempt and offense
- **"He did not do many miracles"**
 - Their familiarity limited God's power
- **"Because of their lack of faith"** - Familiarity destroyed their faith



**The only place Jesus couldn't
perform miracles was where people
were too familiar with Him.
Familiarity is faith's greatest
enemy.**



WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF FAMILIARIZATION?



Definition

"Familiarity is not being familiar – familiarity is knowing someone so well that you lose your admiration and respect for them."



Critical Distinction

Being familiar with leaders is healthy. The Spirit of Familiarization is when that familiarity breeds contempt and destroys honor.



Key Characteristics

- Loss of respect and admiration
- Becoming presumptuous with authority
- Crossing boundaries inappropriately
- Focusing on flaws instead of calling
- Developing critical and judgmental attitudes
- Losing ability to receive from God's gifts
- Blocking the flow of God's power



**The Spirit of Familiarization turns
God's greatest gifts into stumbling
blocks by making the extraordinary
seem ordinary.**



SIGNS OF FAMILIARIZATION



Attitude Changes

- Sitting at the back of church
- Losing excitement about messages
- Becoming critical and fault-finding
- Discussing leader's background negatively
- Rating and ranking messages
- Losing appreciation for leadership



Behavioral Changes

- Skipping church without notice
- Not buying or engaging with content
- Crossing boundaries inappropriately
- Speaking disrespectfully to leaders
- Gossiping about leadership
- Refusing to follow direction



Spiritual Impact

- Inability to receive from God's gifts
- Decreased faith for miracles
- Spiritual dryness and barrenness
- Loss of hunger for God's word
- Becoming unteachable
- Missing God's visitation

Recognition is the First Step

These signs often develop gradually. Leaders must watch for them in themselves and help others recognize when familiarization is taking root.



IMPACT ON LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS



Ministry Impact

- Reduced anointing and power in ministry
- Decreased effectiveness in preaching
- Limited miracles and breakthrough
- Loss of prophetic edge and insight
- Difficulty in bringing transformation

“ Biblical Example

"He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith." - Mark 6:5-6



Personal Impact

- Discouragement and frustration
- Questioning of calling and gifting
- Isolation from those closest to them
- Temptation to compromise or quit
- Loss of confidence in God's calling



Leadership Reality

Many leaders experience their greatest opposition and least effectiveness among those who know them best - family, close friends, and long-term church members.



The Spirit of Familiarization doesn't just affect the leader - it robs entire communities of God's power and blessing.



BREAKING FREE FROM FAMILIARIZATION



Personal Strategies

- Maintain fresh perspective through prayer
- Regularly seek God for renewed vision
- Focus on calling, not just personality
- Practice gratitude for God's gifts in others
- Choose to honor despite human flaws
- Resist the urge to critique and judge
- Remember God's sovereignty in leadership



Relational Strategies

- Set appropriate boundaries with leaders
- Maintain respect in casual interactions
- Avoid gossip about leadership
- Speak positively about God's anointing
- Support leadership publicly and privately
- Address concerns biblically and directly
- Protect the anointing through honor



The Key Principle

Honor the office and calling, not just the person. See beyond the human to the divine appointment and anointing.



BUILDING A CULTURE OF HONOR



Building Honor

- Teach the value of God's gifts in people
- Model respect for authority and anointing
- Address familiarization quickly when it appears
- Celebrate God's work through leadership
- Create boundaries that protect anointing
- Encourage gratitude and appreciation



Protecting Honor

- Guard against gossip and criticism
- Maintain reverence in worship and teaching
- Correct dishonor with love and firmness
- Emphasize God's sovereignty in leadership
- Train people to see beyond the human
- Create accountability for honor

A culture of honor must be intentionally built and carefully protected. It doesn't happen by accident.



THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE



Self-Examination

- ? *How can I protect the anointing in my relationships?*
- ? *Where do I need to restore honor in my leadership?*
- ? *What boundaries need to be established?*
- ? *How can I teach others to honor God's gifts?*
- ? *Where has familiarity crept into my ministry?*



My Commitment

- I will guard against the spirit of familiarization
- I will maintain honor in all my relationships
- I will protect the anointing God has given me
- I will teach others to value God's gifts
- I will choose honor over comfort
- I will create a culture that releases God's power

The Choice is Yours

Honor releases God's power. Familiarization blocks it. Choose honor.



Dealing with the Spirit of Familiarization

1. Recognize It

- Identify when spiritual authority is reduced to mere familiarity.
- Watch for dishonor rooted in 'we know him/her' attitudes.

2. Guard Your Heart

- Don't internalize rejection—Jesus faced it, too.
- Stay focused on your divine assignment.

3. Limit Access

- Withdraw from those who refuse to honor the anointing.
- Focus on where faith is active.



Dealing with the Spirit of Familiarization

4. Stay Obedient

- Continue your assignment regardless of the response.
- Let rejection strengthen your resolve.

5. Pray for Discernment

- Ask God to expose dishonor masked as familiarity.
- Protect your ministry in prayer.

6. Build Elsewhere

- Go where your gift is appreciated.
- Shake off rejection without offense (Matt. 10:14).



Dealing with the Spirit of Familiarization

7. Maintain Honor

- Keep honoring others—even those who dishonor you.
- Honor releases the supernatural.



THE SIN OF OMISSION: JAMES 4:17

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

James 4:17 (NIV)



What is Sin of Omission?

- Failing to do good that we know we should do
- Not just avoiding wrong actions
- Actively choosing inaction when action is required
- Knowledge creates responsibility
- Silence when we should speak
- Inaction when we should act

Sin is not only doing what is wrong, but also failing to do what is right when we have the knowledge and



BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF OMISSION

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

A man was beaten and left for dead on the road to Jericho. Three people passed by.

The Sin of Omission:

The priest and Levite saw the need, had the ability to help, but chose to "pass by on the other side." They knew helping was right but failed to act.

Eli the Priest

1 Samuel 2:22-25, 3:13

Eli knew his sons were sinning grievously in their priestly duties, bringing dishonor to God's name.

The Sin of Omission:

Eli failed to restrain his sons or remove them from office. God said, "I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about."

Church at Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

The Ephesian church was doctrinally sound, worked hard, and persevered through trials.

The Sin of Omission:

They had "forsaken their first love." They knew they should love Christ passionately but had become mechanical in their service.

Knowledge creates responsibility. When we know what is right but fail to act, we become guilty of the sin of omission.



APPLICATION FOR CHURCH LEADERS

✕ Common Omissions

- Failing to address compromising leadership
- Remaining silent when truth is under attack
- Not confronting sin in the church
- Avoiding difficult but necessary conversations
- Choosing peace over righteousness
- Failing to protect the vulnerable
- Not speaking up for biblical truth

✓ Required Actions

- Speak truth in love when compromise occurs
- Follow biblical process for addressing sin
- Protect the church from harmful teaching
- Maintain biblical standards courageously
- Restore the fallen with gentleness
- Stand for righteousness despite cost
- Act on what we know is right



Self-Examination Questions

- ? *What good do I know I should do but haven't done?*
- ? *What truth am I avoiding because it's difficult?*
- ? *Where am I choosing comfort over courage?*
- ? *How is my silence enabling compromise?*

"To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." - James 4:17