

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" – Publisher
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

true repentance. After a while, we may actually have to say to the person "enough, I get it". The person may stop outwardly apologizing, but it will always be in their heart. Our Lord sees that.

He sees true humility and says "my child, get up off your knees and let me show you how delighted I am with your candor". The great I Am wants to show off His forgiveness and raise up the humble. In this way, we glorify Him and He is glorified.

The Adversary, Satan, can only imitate this goodness. He rewards with earthly honor, those who pride themselves on being the first, best and most. Those who put on the largest conferences may not be the most honored for all eternity. The reward in this life may seem like paltry compensation compared to that awarded to the people, who quietly were able to do good only to please their Eternal Parent. A secret deal with our Father sweetens the relationship. A deed done to please Him is like a present given to Him. He considers this thank-worthy (I Peter 2:19).

In other words, He promises to display His thanks, so it can be seen on the human stage and drama. In summary, it would seem, true honor only comes from God and the Bible advises us how to obtain it. So, let's be smart and do it in the method called "The Way".

"For promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South but from the Judge" He putteth down one and setteth up another" (Psalms 75:6,7).

In Him,

Paul Liberman
Executive Director

International Messianic Jewish Alliance

האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

72-877 Dinah Shore Dr., Ste. 103-141 • Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 • TEL: (760) 668-3011 • FAX: (760) 837-0451 • Website: www.imja.com

Number 142

HONOR DUE

Dear Fellow Workers,

The Ten Commandments were given in an assertive manner. So were the remainder of the 613 laws of the Tenach (Old Testament). We were told to do these things, because it was good for us, even if we couldn't see God's full purpose.

As Scriptures, these were written and preserved by the Holy Spirit. Since we believe in the entirety of the Bible, including the New Covenant, we realize it is in our enlightened interest to do what we are told; to the extent we are reasonably able. So often, we take some of these edicts as merely options or suggestions. However, it is good to remember many verses are written in the imperative tense.

Many are in contradiction to our human nature. We fall far short of their fulfillment. Only when we abide in the Spirit of Holiness are we able to satisfy God's standard. One often neglected precept is given in Romans 13:7:

"Render therefore to all their dues...honour to whom honour..."

Let's sharpen up our understanding of this term honor. It means to give importance. Who deserves to be granted our sense of importance? Different people might have various ideas about this question. Some will give honor to successful individuals, according to worldly values. It is common to treat famous, wealthy or powerful people, as deserving of a special place.

Even among believers, we treat ministry leaders sometimes as royalty,

What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

because they have a large congregation, big impressive buildings or can support a broadcast ministry. Our inclinations in this regard are not the most valid criteria.

God's opinion is really the only one that counts, in the long run. It is curious that He says in Exodus 20 to honor our parents, even before He tells us not to murder. Could it be if we do this, we will live more securely and will be less inclined to murder? We are told to love our neighbor (Leviticus 19:18), but to honor our parents.

It seems even if we can't love our parents, we are to honor them, because it is a reflection of our respect for our Eternal Parent. Why should this typology principle not apply to others to whom honor is due? Who is that?

God's opinion about who to honor so often differs from ours; and yet, His views are the truest reality. He says to honor rulers (Exodus 22:28, Ecclesiastes 10:20, Acts 23:5). Our Lord said to give this sense of importance to the aged (Leviticus 19:32) and to "despise not thy mother, when she is aged" (Proverbs 23:22). Apparently, these things needed to be asserted, because of the human tendency not to do so.

Reverence for the image of God is easy and is reflected in these requirements. We usually realize these things, even if we partially submerge them.

More obscure sanctions are God's other criteria. He says:

"Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

"He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honour" (Proverbs 21:21).

"Put glory, honour and peace to every man that worketh good..." (Romans 2:10)

Apparently, good character is a main criterion, as to whom God determines is accruing honor. In the book

of Revelations, Chapters 2 and 3, God expresses His evaluation of seven congregations. We do not know their size or which one's met in buildings or out of doors. We are only told of their deficiencies and applaudable traits. Our Lord sees it all and His justice is unclouded.

The same might be applied to individuals. Just because someone is given a talent for public speaking, singing etc., does not necessarily mean such people are more favored by our Lord. In fact, the Scriptures stipulate, "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). It would be wise for us to adopt God's views and imitate His actions.

The Potter hasn't made everyone an Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist or Teacher (Acts 12:28). It might even be that more honor is due the people who do not receive special importance and rewards from social prominence. According to the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7), it is impossible to honor parents, rulers etc., without being rewarded for doing so.

Few of us feel we are honored more than we deserve. Yet, there are such people. They are the truly humble of heart. God sees this and lifts them up, as He promised. Like our Lord, let us try to notice and reward. Even if we won't or don't, the Inventor of Justice never fails to perform.

This seems to be such a challenging endeavor. How can we I seem less worthy in my own eyes? Perhaps I John 1:9 holds the secret.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Perhaps after a thorough confession session, we will have to quietly admit to ourselves we are not such a peach, as we had earlier thought. It is a common experience after bringing to mind a particular transgression, another will come to mind. Often, this is followed by a further list. In fact, sometimes it seems there is no end of our sins! What's more, if we are truly repentant, we will always feel so and want to express it.

Possibly, you have had the experience of having someone apologize to you again and again for the same offense. This is how it works with

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do.

Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

