

23.

But give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all.

Romans 12:17b

We are being watched by those we work with, play with, study with, live with, and mix with - but particularly by those who think of us as *enemies*. While we can pray for our friends, neighbours, colleagues, and team mates to open their hearts to Christ and accept Him as Saviour, this praying can all be undone in an instant if we act *dishonourably*. It can also give our opponents an occasion to dismiss the claims of Christ on their lives.

‘Honour’ is the bestowing of *respect* and *importance* to someone. To be *honourable* therefore is to live a life *worthy of respect* which leads to being seen as *not common*.

1. What brings honour to a person according to Proverbs 3:35 and why?

2. What is one of the outstanding characteristic of the honourable according to Proverbs 15:33? (Note also Proverbs 18:12; 29:23)

3. What do honourable people generally avoid according to Proverbs 20:3?

The Gospel is primarily promoted by preaching and proclamation (Rom. 10:14). Francis of Assisi is often wrongly attributed as saying, “*Everywhere you go, preach the Gospel - and if you have to, use words!*” While people mean well when they repeat these kind of sayings, they are probably unintentionally mistaken about how the Gospel is heard and received.

4. What is the relationship between how a believer lives before those they are sharing the Gospel with, *and*, their sharing of the Gospel with them?

5. What is to be gained from implementing Colossians 4:5?

6. Living honourably before outsiders has a major benefit according to First Peter 2:12. What is this benefit and how is it achieved?

To “*give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all*” must involve living in a way where we consider that everything we do or say and its impact on the eternal destiny of others - especially our opponents. It’s bad enough when our witness is undermined when an inconsiderate believer behaves dishonourably, but it is disgraceful when another believer’s witness is undermined because of our inconsiderate and dishonourable behaviour. May God help us all to live honourably for Christ before our brothers and sisters and especially in the eyes of outsiders.

Amen.