

Covenant Relationships Part 3

Community Life – Honor within the Community



From the Heart Of The Rabbis

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Philosophy of Community Among The Amish and Jewish Communities, What We Can Learn From Them

The Amish Philosophy of Community Article Alexandra Corbella

Community

The Amish are Protestant Christians, but some of their beliefs differ markedly from those of other Protestant groups.

To maintain cohesive daily practices among members of the community, the Amish abide by the Ordnung, or a written code of conduct. The specifics of the Ordnung vary from community to community.

Separation

The Amish separate themselves from the secular world as much as possible to keep their communities pure so that they may receive salvation. Rather than seeking help from outside their communities in times of crisis, **the Amish rely on a biblical principle**

of mutual aid, wherein church members are obligated to help each other. It is because of this principle of separation that the Amish avoid modern technology. Modern tools such as cars and home telephones are believed to weaken dependence on their neighbors, weakening the community as a whole.

The Jewish Community¹

Jewish life revolves around two institutions: the home and the community. Each is endowed with unique meaning, and between these two—the private and public spaces—education, ritual, and everyday life takes place

Jewish Community and its Institutions

(Source: My Jewish Learning.com)

Jewish families cannot live in isolation. To live a full Jewish life requires engagement with other Jews, a Jewish community. The community provides services and experiences that the home cannot, and in addition, fellowship and participation in community have inherent spiritual value in Judaism.

While Jews can pray individually, the presence of a *minyan* (a quorum of 10 or more men, or adults) is required for certain portions of the service. Thus, the synagogue emerged as the central institution of the community. Historically, the synagogue included a *beit midrash* (a place for study) and often, a guest room for travelers. Many synagogues contain a *mikveh* (ritual bath) used for people to immerse in and also for readying new dishes and cooking utensils for use in a kosher kitchen. Today, many synagogues house religious schools for

¹ <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-home-community/>

community youth, and some have gyms or swimming pools for recreation.

As Jewish communities grew larger, some functions of the synagogue were transferred to separate institutions, including *yeshivot* or day schools, Jewish homes for the sick or elderly, and social service agencies for charity collection and distribution. Today, many of these activities and others are the function of centralized communal organizations called Federations. Federations support Jewish schools, community centers, family and counseling services, vocational services, residential services for disabled or elderly populations, and philanthropy for agencies that provide these same services to Jews in other lands and in Israel.

In addition to the Federations, myriad organizations provide programs and services focused on specific issues or specific populations. These include B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, ORT, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish War Veterans and numerous others.

Other functions of the Jewish community include:

- Providing kosher food requires bakeries, butchers, and other establishments supervised by overseers familiar with the details of both food chemistry and the laws of kashrut.
- Burial of the dead requires cemetery land set aside for this purpose. In most American Jewish communities, a Jewish cemetery preceded the organization of the first synagogue. But, burial is not the only issue. The body must be washed, dressed and attended prior to burial. The *hevrah kadisha*—burial society—attends to these needs through Jewish funeral homes.

- With the invention of movable type, Jewish booksellers and Jewish bookstores became a feature of the community. Today, these stores sell Jewish ritual items as well.

The diversity of family life today demands that the community be prepared to not only provide those functions inherent to community, but also to fill in the gaps of Jewish home life. Jewish schools, summer camps, youth groups, and community centers all reinforce the home experiences, or in some cases, provide these experiences for the first time. The community is therefore the partner of the home in creating and perpetuating a vibrant Jewish life.

The Messianic Community

This is one thing that is sadly lacking among the Messianic Community. People tend to be grasshoppers, jumping from place to place, not financially supporting the Community and not having the resources to be able to help each other in time of need due to Congregations that go up and down in attendance and tithes and offerings.

We see by the 2 examples above that there is a code of honor that causes the Communities to band together and be there for one another.

There is a lack of respect and honor given to the local Rabbi or leader(s) as well. We see splits, lack of commitment, lack of fellowship and lack of serving etc. etc. In fact the title Rabbi is pretty much despised in the Messianic Community, where as in other Communities the Rabbis and Elders are treated with respect and honor.

I am not saying that the reverse could also be an issue where the leadership doesn't honor the members. It is a two-way street, but we need to realize that wherever you have a group of people coming together and

trying to function as a Community, you are going to have friction at times, you are going to have issues. You are going to maybe say things in the heat of the moment you did not mean to say. But how are we going to learn to grow, if we do not make a commitment to our local Messianic Community?

Of course, this all boils down to two main issues within Messianic Communities and that is Commitment to Financial Support and Community Support of the Leaders Vision, or just commitment period! We have experienced this as Congregational Leaders and I have spoken with many other Congregational leaders and they have all experienced, splits, people trying to take over, lack of commitment to the community and lack of support and honor.

It could be because the current Messianic Movement which started in the early 60's and has evolved from a mainly Jewish movement to a mixture of Jewish and Non Jewish Believers from all different denominational experiences vs the Amish Community which is hundreds of years old and the Jewish Community that goes back thousands of years.

Yet we can learn much from them as Messianic Believers on what it takes to function as a Community of Honor.

Building a Community Based Upon Honor

Sowing Honor Vs Dishonor

*There is a law called sowing and reaping.
The seed you sow is the seed you will reap.*

Galatians 6:1-8 TLV²

Gal 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is

² All Scriptures in this article are from The Tree Of Life Version Bible

caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—looking closely at yourself so you are not tempted also.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the Torah of Messiah.

Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is fooling himself.

Gal 6:4 Rather let each one examine his own work. Then he will have pride in himself alone and not in comparison to anyone else.

Gal 6:5 For each one will carry his own load.

Gal 6:6 Now let the one who is taught the word share all good things with his teacher.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived—God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also shall reap.

Gal 6:8 For the one who sows in the flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But the one who sows in the Ruach will reap from the Ruach eternal life.

If you give honor to whom honor is due you will receive honor as well. If you dishonor God and others you will be dishonored yourself. If you dishonor leadership, you dishonor God who appointed that leadership, especially if that leadership is one of a good reputation and accountability.

Definitions -Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Honor – noun

The esteem due or paid to worth, high esteem

A testimony of esteem; any expression of respect or of high estimation by words or actions;

Dignity; exalted rank or place; distinction

Reverence; veneration; or any act by which reverence and submission are expressed, as worship paid to God

Reputation; good name

True nobleness of mind; magnanimity; dignified respect for character, springing from probity; principle or moral rectitude; a distinguishing trait in the character of good men.

That which honors; he or that which confers dignity. Civilities paid

Honor – verb

To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission and perform relative duties to

To reverence; to manifest the highest veneration for, in words and actions; to entertain the most exalted thoughts of; to worship; to adore

To dignity; to raise to distinction or notice; to elevate in rank or station; to exalt.

To glorify; to render illustrious

To treat with due civility and respect in everyday life

Dishonor- n – Reproach; disgrace; shame; whatever constitutes a stain or blemish in the reputation

Dishonor-v – To disgrace; to bring reproach or shame on to stain the character of; to lessen reputation

To treat with indignity To violate; to debauch

A Rebellious Spirit Dishonor Vs. Honoring God

What are ways that we Honor God?

Obedience to His Torah

The Blessings come from obedience. And obedience to God is not an option. As one Rabbi said some people have a Cut and Paste Bible, they cut out what they don't like and Paste on the refrigerator what they do like.

Deu 28:1 “Now if you listen obediently to the voice of Adonai your God, taking care to do all His mitzvot that I am commanding you today, Adonai your God will set you on high—above all the nations of the earth.

Deu 28:2 Then all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you listen to the voice of Adonai your God:

Honor His Name

Mal 1:6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. So if I am Father, where is My honor? If I am Master, where is My reverence?”—says Adonai-Tzva'ot—“you, kohanim who despise My Name!” But you say, “How did we despise Your Name?”

Mal 2:2 If you will not listen, and if you will not take to heart to give glory to My Name”—says Adonai-Tzva'ot—“then I will send the curse on you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, indeed I have cursed them, because you did not take it to heart.

Honoring God Via Tithing

Pro 3:9 Honor Adonai with your wealth and with the first of your entire harvest.

Keeping and Honoring the Shabbat

Exo 20:8 “Remember Yom Shabbat, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 You are to work six days, and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Shabbat to Adonai your God. In it you shall not do any work—not you, nor your son, your daughter, your male servant, your female servant, your cattle, nor the outsider that is within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For in six days Adonai made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Thus Adonai blessed Yom Shabbat, and made it holy.

Honoring Messiah Through Obedience

Joh 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Joh 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him.”

Mat 13:57 And they took offense at Him. But Yeshua said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own house.”

Honoring God Via Worship

Psa 29:2 Ascribe to Adonai the glory of His Name. Bow down to Adonai in the beauty of holiness.

Psa 34:4 Magnify Adonai with me and let us exalt His Name together.

Psa 57:6 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let Your glory be over all the earth!

Psa 107:32 Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him at the assembly of elders.

Isa 25:1 Adonai, You are my God, I will exalt You, I will praise Your Name, for You have done wonderful things, plans of old with steadfast faithfulness.

Honoring Yeshua our Messiah

2 Pe 1:17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, a voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory: “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased!”

Rev 4:9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the One seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. And they throw their crowns down before the throne, chanting,

Rev 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, For You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created!”

Rev 5:12 They were chanting with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Rev 5:13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and everything in them, responding, “To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and power forever and ever!”

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Rev 7:12 saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen!”

Honoring Leadership

We should honor those who God has given us as leaders and respect the Biblical rules and boundaries they place within a Community

Php 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and aide to my need.

Php 2:26 For he was longing for you all and troubled because you heard that he was sick.

Php 2:27 He certainly was sick, close to death. But God had mercy on him—and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

Php 2:28 Therefore I have sent him with special urgency, so that when you see him again you might rejoice and I might be less worried about you.

Php 2:29 So welcome him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard,

Php 2:30 because he came close to death for the work of Messiah, risking his life to make up for what was lacking in your service to me.

1Th 5:12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to recognize those who work hard among you and are over you in the Lord and correct you,

1Th 5:13 and to esteem them beyond all measure in love because of their work. Keep shalom among yourselves.

1Ti 5:17 The elders who lead well are worthy of honor and honorarium—especially those who work hard in the word and teaching.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,” and, “The worker is worthy of his wage.”

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate

their faith.

2Co 6:1 Since we are co-laboring, we also urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

2Co 6:2 For He says, “At a favorable time I listened to you, in a day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.

2Co 6:3 We give no cause for offense in anything, so that our ministry may not be blamed.

2Co 6:4 But as God’s servants, we are commending ourselves in every way—in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

2Co 6:5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in troubles, in sleeplessness, in hunger;

2Co 6:6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Ruach ha-Kodesh, in genuine love,

2Co 6:7 in truthful speech, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

2Co 6:8 through honor and dishonor, through evil report and good report. We are regarded as deceivers and yet true;

2Co 6:9 as unknown and yet well-known; as dying, yet behold, we live; as disciplined yet not put to death;

2Co 6:10 as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

2Co 6:11 We have spoken openly to you, O Corinthians; our heart is open wide!

2Co 6:12 You are not restricted by us, yet you are restricted in your own feelings.

2Co 6:13 Now in return—I speak as to my children—open wide to us also.

True Honor Comes from God

2Ch 1:11 Then God said to Solomon,

“Since this was in your heart and you have not asked for riches, possessions or honor, nor for the life of those who hate you and have not even asked for long life but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself—so you can govern My people over whom I have made you king—

2Ch 1:12 wisdom and knowledge will be given to you. Moreover, I will give you riches, possessions and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you ever had and none after you will have.”

1Ki 3:13 Moreover I have also given you what you did not request—both riches and honor—so that no one among the kings will be like you all your days.

1Ki 3:14 Furthermore, if you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

Psa 91:15 When he calls on Me, I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble, rescue him, and honor him.

Psa 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.

Joh 12:26 If any man serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there also will My servant be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Honoring Parents

Exo 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long upon the land which Adonai your God is giving you.

Lev 19:32 You are to rise up in the presence of the gray-haired and honor the presence of the elderly. So you will fear your God. I am

Adonai.

Deu 5:16 ‘Honor your father and your mother just as Adonai your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and it may go well with you in the land Adonai your God is giving you.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Eph 6:2 “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise),

Eph 6:3 “so that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.”

Honoring True Widows & Older Men/Woman

1Ti 5:1 Never speak harshly to an older man but appeal to him as a father; to younger men as brothers;

1Ti 5:2 older women as mothers; and younger women as sisters—with complete purity.

1Ti 5:3 Honor widows who are really widows—

1Ti 5:4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to show devotion to their own home and give back to their parents, for this is pleasing before God.

1Ti 5:17 The elders who lead well are worthy of honor and honorarium—especially those who work hard in the word and teaching.

Lev 19:32 You are to rise up in the presence of the gray-haired and honor the presence of the elderly. So you will fear your God. I am Adonai.

Pro 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Honor in Marriage

Eph 5:22 wives to your own husbands as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as Messiah also is head of His community—Himself the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as Messiah's community is submitted to Messiah, so also the wives to their husbands in everything.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives just as Messiah also loved His community and gave Himself up for her

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, having cleansed her by immersion in the word.

Eph 5:27 Messiah did this so that He might present to Himself His glorious community—not having stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but in order that she might be holy and blameless.

Eph 5:28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it—just as Messiah also does His community,

Eph 5:30 because we are members of His body.

Eph 5:31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Eph 5:32 This mystery is great—but I am talking about Messiah and His community.

Eph 5:33 In any case, let each of you love his own wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband.

A wife will reflect the way the husband treats her.

Abuse (physical or verbal) is NEVER allowed according to Torah and is grounds for divorce along with adultery

Heb 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Honoring One Another

We are to show honor and respect to each other

1Pe 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1Pe 4:8 Above all, keep your love for one another constant, for “love covers a multitude of sins.”

1Pe 4:9 Be hospitable one to another without grumbling.

1Pe 4:10 As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God.

1Pe 4:11 Whoever speaks, let it be as one speaking the utterances of God. Whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies. So in all things may God be glorified through Messiah Yeshua—all glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen.

1Th 4:9 Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write you—for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1Th 4:10 In fact, you even practice it toward all your brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to keep progressing more and more

1Th 4:11 and aspire to lead a quiet life, to

mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, just as we directed you—
1Th 4:12 so you may behave properly toward outsiders and not have need of anything.

How to Receive Honor

Many people are big into “Self Promotion” However, if we honor God, Honor leadership and are faithful and obedient God will be the One to Promote us and cause everything to fall into place.

Pro 15:33 The fear of Adonai is the discipline of wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Pro 18:12 Before ruin a person’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

Pro 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is gray hair.

Pro 22:4 The reward of humility and fear of Adonai is riches, honor and life.

Pro 29:23 A man’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will gain honor.

Rom 2:7 To those who by perseverance in doing good are seeking glory, honor, and immortality—eternal life.

Rom 2:8 But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—wrath and fury.

Rom 2:9 There will be trouble and hardship for every human soul that does evil—to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 2:10 But there will be glory, honor, and shalom to everyone who does good—to

the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

Rom 12:10 Be tenderly devoted to one another in brotherly love; outdo one another in giving honor.

Rom 13:7 Pay to everyone what is due them—tribute to whom tribute is due; tax to whom tax is due; respect to whom respect is due; honor to whom honor is due.

Now ask yourself:

How do I exhibit Honor in my daily life?

What can I do to develop a better willingness to Honor and value people?

What blocks Honor from working and being exhibited in me?

How can I make Honor function better, stronger, and faster, even in times of uncertainly and stress?

Further Questions

1. How would you define Honor? Do you respect God? If so, what about people you do not like?
2. What part do Honor and Respect play in our relationships with Congregational leaders, the elderly, and with one another? Do you think God desires that we give special care or Honor to Congregational leaders?

3. How does Disrespect counteract Honor? What is the cost to others (God, family, friends, neighbors, church family, co-workers, etc.) when you are a person who likes to show others up?
4. What happens to your relationship with God, with others, and with the opportunities God gives you when you put others down?
5. When have you realized the Value in others the most? Do people have to earn your respect? If so, why? Is that Biblical?
6. In what situation did you fail to Honor someone when you should have?
7. What issue is in your life that would improve if you could show more Honor?
8. Think through the steps you need to take to put Honor into action in a specific instance. What can you do to develop a deeper sense of Worship to God? How would this Respect and Honor of God affect your relationships? How can you start to treat others with dignity, especially those with whom you disagree or those you dislike?³