

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE

1. DEFINITION:

- a. The Royal Family Honor Code (RFHC) is a codification of the standards of behavior which God expects of believers in Jesus Christ during the dispensation of the Church Age.
- b. At regeneration, by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, believers in Jesus Christ are born into royalty (1 Peter 2:9), a spiritual aristocracy, which functions under a higher standard of living than humanity as a whole.
- c. Adherence to this higher standard of living is only possible by means of the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit and the intake and application of Bible doctrine in the lives of believers.
- d. Standards of aristocracy have always been part of every stabilized system of authority in every nation of the past where aristocracy has existed.
- e. Often these standards of aristocracy are not written down but are understood by and taught to the children of the nobility.
- f. These unwritten standards are a matter of honor, integrity, morality, personal worth, recognition of position, recognition of authority, and a personal sense of destiny.
- g. The RFHC is a descriptive title for the standards of aristocracy prescribed by God in the New Testament, primarily in the Acts of the Apostles and in the epistles.
- h. Hence, the RFHC is a system that emphasizes the priorities of the word of God.
- i. While there is not one complete list of these standards found anywhere in the New Testament; nevertheless, these standards are found throughout the New Testament.

2. VOCABULARY:

- a. βασιλείος - basileios - (Greek adjective) meaning: royal (1 Peter 2:9)
- b. πατριά - patria - (Gk. noun) meaning: family (Eph. 3:15)
- c. τιμή - time - (Gk. n.) meaning: honor (Rom. 9:21)
- d. τίμος - timos - (Gk. adj.) meaning: honorable (Heb. 13:4)
- e. σεμνός - semnos - (Gk. adj.) meaning: honorable (1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2; Phil. 4:8)
- f. καλός - kalos - (Gk. adj.) meaning: honorable, good, beautiful, excellent (Rom. 12:17; 1 Pet. 2:12; Titus 2:7; 3:8, 14)
- g. καλοποιέω - kalopoieo - (Gk. verb) meaning: to do well, to do excellently, to act honorably (Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13)
- h. ἀγαθός - agathos - (Gk. adj.) meaning: good (of intrinsic value) (2 Cor. 9:8; Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:1; Heb. 13:21)
- i. ἀγαθοποιέω - agathopoieo - (Gk. verb) meaning: to do good, to do what is right (1 Pet. 2:15, 20)
- j. ἀρετή - arete - (Gk. adj.) meaning: excellence, integrity, virtue (Phil. 4:8; 2 Peter 1:5)

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE

- k. εὐάρεστος - euarestos - (Gk. adj.) meaning: well-pleasing (Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:10; Heb. 13:21)
- l. εὐφημος - euphemos - (Gk. noun) meaning: good repute, good report, praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8)

3. THE BASIS FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE:

- a. The basis of our royalty and the resulting honor code is **the baptism of the Holy Spirit** which enters us into union with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3, 4a, b)
- b. While regeneration by the Holy Spirit is always the result of faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout human history, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is unique to the dispensation of the church. (John 14:16, 17; Col. 1:25, 26)

4. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE:

- a. We as believers in Jesus Christ have been baptized into Christ, *“so that we also might walk in newness of life.”* (Rom. 6:4c)
- b. As believers in Jesus Christ we are to present our bodies as *“a living and holy sacrifice, well-pleasing (acceptable) to God...”* (Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:9)
- c. We are to *“...be transformed by the renewing”* of our minds, that we *“may discover what the will of God is, that which is good and well-pleasing (acceptable) and perfect (complete).”* (Rom. 12:2)
- d. We are to present the members of our bodies as *“instruments of righteousness to God.”* (Rom. 6:13) and as *“slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.”* (Rom. 6:19)
- e. We are to *“grow up”* to attain spiritual maturity, *“...unto a mature man unto (the) measure of (the) stature of the fullness of Christ,”* (Eph. 4:12, 13, 15; Col. 1:28; 2 Pet. 3:18)
- f. We are to glorify God and His Christ. (John 14:13; Rom. 15:5-7; 1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 1:12; 2 Thess. 1:12; Phil. 2:11)

5. THE FUNCTION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE:

- a. The believer in Jesus Christ fulfills the objectives of the Christian way of life by **obedience to a code of conduct**, the RFHC, which reflects the authority, the righteousness, the grace, and the glory of God. (2 Cor. 5:9; Eph 5:10; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1)
- b. This RFHC is **the modus operandi** of the new priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9), and it is summarized by the *“royal law”* in James 2:8. (cf. Matt. 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:26-28; John 13:34, 35)
- c. As the believer advances to spiritual maturity and beyond, he or she receives the blessings of royalty in this life and in the resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal 6:9; Eph. 1:3; James 1:25; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 John 8)

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE

6. THE COMBAT ARMOR OF THE ROYAL FAMILY:

- a. The *“full armor,”* (from the Greek word, *πανοπλία* - panoplia, meaning: equipment of a fully armored soldier) represents the **divine operating assets** provided for each member of the royal family. (2 Pet. 1:3)
- b. The command is given to *“put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil,”* and *“against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies,”* and to *“be able to resist in the evil day.”* (Eph. 6:11-13)
- c. These **divine operating assets** include the following:
 - (1) **The helmet of salvation** – represents salvation in all three phases, with emphasis on Phase #2 salvation, and our **eternal position of security** in Christ. (Eph. 6:17) The three phases of salvation are as follows:
 - (a) Phase #1 - appropriation salvation, at the moment of belief in Jesus Christ
 - (b) Phase #2 - demonstration salvation, the entire Christian life
 - (c) Phase #3 - anticipation salvation, the life of the believer in resurrection body in eternity
 - (2) **The loins girded with truth** – represents **Bible doctrine** believed and assimilated into the facets of our soul. (Eph. 6:14)
 - (3) **The breastplate of righteousness** – represents the **imputed righteousness** of Christ **which we demonstrate** when we apply Bible doctrine in our lives. (Eph. 6:14)
 - (4) **The feet shod with the preparation of the gospel** – represent **Bible doctrine** in the soul, **ready to be applied**, especially the information pertaining to the gospel message. (Eph. 6:15)
 - (5) **The shield of faith** – represents the **faith-rest technique** of believing and claiming any of the 7000 plus promises of the Scriptures and resting in God’s faithfulness to fulfill them. (Eph. 6:16)
 - (6) **The sword of the spirit which is the word of God** – represents the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit which make possible **the communication and application of Bible doctrine, “the sword.”** (Eph. 6:17) The filling of the Holy Spirit and the application of Bible doctrine together make prayer possible. (Eph. 6:18)

7. THE DIVINE MANDATES OF THE RFHC:

- a. Utilize, “put on,” the divine operating assets:
 - (1) *“Put on the whole armor of God.”* (Eph. 6:11, 13)
 - (2) *“...put on the armor of light.”* (Rom. 13:12)
 - (3) *“...put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27)
 - (4) *“Put on the new man.”* (Eph. 4:24; Col.3:10)

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE

- b. “...be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Eph. 5:18 with 1 John 1:9, 1 Cor. 11:31; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-14; Gal. 5:16, 18, 22, 23, 25) **“Cleanse your hands, you sinners and purify your hearts, you double minded.”** (James 4:8b)
- c. Study the Word of God. (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16, 17) **“for we live by faith and not by sight -”** (2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:15)
- d. Be oriented to grace; the plan of God must be understood. **“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.”** We cannot grow as Christians without consistent Bible study. (2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 13:9; Titus 2:11, 12)
- e. Pray continually. **“...pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”** (1 Thess. 5:17-18; Col. 4:2)
- f. **“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”** (James 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6) Humility recognizes that God provides all things.
- g. Obey God. **“Submit therefore to God,”** (James 4:7) We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29) We are **“taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”** (2 Cor. 10:5)
- h. Love God. **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”** (Mark 12:30; Matt. 22:37; Luke 10:27)
“...this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments,” (1 John 5:3)
- i. Glorify God. **“therefore, glorify God in your body.”** (1 Cor. 6:20; Rom. 15:5, 6)
- j. **“Love your neighbor as yourself,”** (James 2:8; Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27 with Luke 10:28-37 - “the good Samaritan;” Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:8)
- k. Love the brotherhood. (John. 13:34, 35; Rom. 12:10a; 1 John 3:23; 1 Pet. 3:17) **“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”** (John 15:12, 13)
- l. Respect the privacy of others. **“We urge you...to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business,”** (1 Thess. 4:10, 11; 2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 1 Pet. 4:15)
- m. Regard others as more important than yourselves and lookout for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3, 4; Rom. 12:10b) **“...but through love serve one another.”** (Gal. 5:13)
- n. Be an evangelist. **“...do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”** We are not all gifted as evangelists, but as believers in Jesus Christ we are to give the gospel. (2 Tim. 4:5; Eph. 6:15)
- o. **“Act as free men, but do not use your freedom as a covering for an evil deed.”** **“Honor** (value or respect) **all men;”** (1Pet. 2:16, 17a; Rom 13:7) This is the **first law of divine establishment (LODE)** regarding volition, freewill.
- p. **“Let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.”** (1 Cor. 7:1-4) **“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled;”** (Heb. 13:3) This is the **second (LODE)** regarding right man and right woman and marriage.

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HONOR CODE

- q. **“Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord.”** (Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18)
This is part of the **second** (LODE) regarding marriage.
- r. **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church...”** (Eph 5:25; Col. 3:19) This is part of the **second** (LODE) regarding marriage.
- s. **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.”** (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)
“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.”
(Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4) This is the **third** LODE regarding family.
- t. **“Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities.”** (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:12, 13, 17d; 1 Tim. 5:8) This is the **fourth** LODE regarding nationalism.
- u. **“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect,”** (1 Pet. 2:18-21a; Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:22-25)
- v. **“Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you have a master in heaven.”** (Col. 4:1; Eph. 6:9)
- w. **“Accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”**
(Rom. 15:7) We need to be flexible in the nonessentials and inflexible in the essentials of living the Christian life.
- x. **“Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up (edification) of one another.”** (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11, 15) God expects more of the strong believer than the weak believer. (Rom. 15:1, 2)
- y. **“Serve one another through love.”** (Gal 5:13) Use your freedom as servants of God. (1 Pet. 2:16)
- z. **“Do all things without grumbling or disputing.”** (Phil. 2:14; James 5:9)
- aa. **“Let your speech always be with grace,”** (Col. 6:13) **“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth...”** (Eph. 4:29)
- bb. **“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders...”** (Col. 4:5; 1 Thess. 4:12)
- cc. **“Keep your behavior excellent (honorable) before the Gentiles,”** (1 Pet. 2:12; 15)
- dd. **“...fix your hope on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** (1 Pet. 1:3-5, 13; Rom. 12:12; 15:13; Titus 2:13)
- ee. **“...but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing...”**
(1 Pet. 4:12-14) **“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,”** (Phil. 1:29, 30) **“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;...”** (1 Cor. 12:26)
“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials;”
(James 1:2)
- ff. **“Living is Christ, dying is gain.”** (Phil. 1:21; Rom. 14:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:8, with vs. 1-9; see also Psa. 116:15)