

# *Favor With God and Man*

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Proverbs 22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

*Favour* — Kind regard, friendly disposition. Disposition to aid, befriend, support; pleasant.

- I. We make an impression on people that causes them to make a decision about us.
  - A. They either decide “in our favor” or against us.
    - 1. We are either pleasant and one they are inclined to join themselves to, or we are unpleasant and offensive and to be avoided.
    - 2. They either like us, or they do not.
- II. It is important that people like us.
  - A. It affects our own personality, attitude, and disposition.
  - B. It increases our influence dramatically.
  - C. Life is pretty tough without it.
    - 1. We are useless and ineffective in God’s service for sure.
    - 2. If we are not pleasant to others they will not listen to our words.
    - 3. If others are not disposed to help us or support us we will not have much influence on their lives.
  - D. To not be favored by others is to have them against us.
    - 1. If others have decided against us they will work against us, they will not just be indifferent.
  - E. The people God has used have always gained favor with God and with man.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 39:3-4 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Esther 2:15 And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

- 1. The church had favor with men in the beginning.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- a) The church should always find favor with those that are without — even though there will be enemies.

III. What brings favor from others?

- A. That which is pleasant to look upon always brings favor — at the beginning.
  - 1. God put things together this way; there is good and bad – what is good pleases and what is bad displeases.
  - 2. Physically attractive people are always favored — at first.
  - 3. Little children are always favored — at first.
  - 4. Rich people are always favored — at first.
- B. Doing righteousness, and obeying the truth brings favor.
  - 1. Men, by nature, admire and favor that which is right and pure. (i.e.: Always on the side of the good guys)

Proverbs 22:11 He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

- 2. Others will favor those who are merciful, yet abide by the truth.

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: {4} So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

- a) Our attitude and treatment of others brings favor or disfavor.

- 3. Those who live the way they were raised by righteous parents are favored by others.

Proverbs 1:8-9 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

- 4. Those who seem to know what they are doing, and the things they do work out well, are favored by others.

Proverbs 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

IV. You can have it and then lose it.

- A. Everyone is inclined to favor someone else — at first.
  - 1. Our first chance to win the favor of someone else is our best chance.
  - 2. Once favor is lost, it is hard to be regained.
- B. Favor is lost — you are looked at in a different light — when uncleanness (or perceived uncleanness) is found in you.

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

- 1. NO ONE favors uncleanness or filth — it is unpleasant, and to be avoided.
- 2. Even though you might have been favored because of your beauty or your wisdom, finding uncleanness in you costs you the favor of others.

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

Proverbs 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

- C. Favor is lost when unrighteousness (or perceived unrighteousness) is found in you.
  - 1. When hypocrisy is evident.

2. When you forsake the way you've been taught.
  3. When you appear to be seeking the favor of wicked people —it will cost you the favor of good people (and God).
- D. When favor is lost you are treated differently.
1. The countenances of others change toward you.
  2. Their help and support are withdrawn.
  3. They feel toward you as essentially their enemy.
  4. They are no longer disposed to help and support you.
  5. They find fault with you continually.
- V. To lose favor with men is bad, but to lose favor with God is much worse.
- A. The fact is that the two go pretty much together — when you lose favor with men you have likely lost favor with God also.
1. The behavior that causes men to stop favoring you is the same behavior that cause God to stop favoring you.
- B. To have God frowning upon you is certain to cause your life to be miserable and empty of joy, happiness, and satisfaction.

Psalm 30:7 LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

- C. To have God disposed to hinder you instead of to help you is sure to make things harder for you.

Proverbs 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

- D. To have God avoiding you instead of being easily found by you is certain to take away all comfort and rest from your soul.

Deuteronomy 31:17 Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

Psalm 63:3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Psalm 26:3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

Psalm 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Psalm 119:58 I entreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.