

# **The Honour of God**

## **v. The Honour of Men**

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<http://mccue.cc/bob/spirituality.htm>

I am a slow learner, and so am still chipping away at the Mormon cement in my head. Up yesterday were those silly, worthless, "honours of men" that we Mormons were told to avoid. You know, stuff like Nobel Prizes, Pulitzers, awards for community service - worthless stuff like that. Things that humanity thinks are wonderful, but that do not build up the Kingdom of God.

Of course, in God's Kingdom nothing so shiftless and temporary as "honours of men" is sought after. The only thing that matters there is the honour conferred by God - that is of eternal import. And since God is not often around these days, we rely upon his trusty agents-on-Earth, the Leaders of the Mormon Church, to confer His honours for Him. Now, these guys are men, but the honours they confer don't count as the honours of men, because they are God's agents-on-Earth - His Leaders - and we know this because they have told us so, and they are trustworthy, as they have also told us many times.

And in any event, honours of God are fundamentally different from honours of men. Honours of men make you proud and do things just to get more honours of men. Honours of God only make you want to serve God more, which means helping the Leaders, giving money to the Leaders so that they can build monuments to God, which they design and name for Him. And since they serve Him sometimes they name those monuments for themselves, but that is OK since they are His Leaders, and so naming monuments for Them is kind of like naming them for Him. Now that I think of it, it is often hard to tell Them and Him apart.

Consider missionary farewells. That is an honour of God. When an obscure boy (or on rare occasion girl) sits in front of hundreds of people and listens to things so nice they are usually only said at funerals being said about him, it doesn't make him proud, it just makes him want to serve God, which means help the Leaders. And no one wants these honours of God just to have hundreds of people say nice things about you, and kind of worship you for a day. This is a honour of God, not of men. The Leaders have told us this, and therefore it must be true.

And when the Leaders put someone in charge of a congregation, that is also an honour of God. No one wants to be in charge. The Leaders assure us of that. The only reason they do it is because God told them they had to. Honours of God are sacred, and so when hundreds (or millions) of people have to do whatever you tell them (unless you are REALLY stupid about it) and let you know over and over again how wonderful you are, the Leaders (and their local helpers) do not like that. They put up with it because it is part of the job God has told them to do; part of the load He has called them to bear. They need our support to bear that load, so pray for them and let them know as often as possible how much you appreciate them. This is how you honour God, and let the Leaders know that they are earning the honour of God.

And when each Sunday various members are chosen by the local leaders to stand up and speak to the rest of us, or teach lessons because they are good at doing that, or sing or play music because they are talented at that, this is another honour of God and not of men. When these things are done at school or work or in the community, they often result in pride. The wonderful thing about honours of God is that they don't cause pride. Those wonderful feelings that come from the attention from men that the honour of God produces are not pride. They are just a desire to serve God more.

And, when the Leaders are given things that look a lot like the honours of men, like honorary degrees or community awards, those are really honours of God because they are His Leaders and so are accepting these honours on His behalf, sort of. Same thing when they publish any old book and it sells like hotcakes.

Anyways, thank the Leaders (and God too, now that I think of it) for the honours of God, and for helping us to know the difference between what uplifts us, makes us more spiritual and Godlike (not to mention Leaderlike), and the soul cankering honours of men that cause us to cravenly crawl after that which is not real, and which ultimately degrades God's children.