

Summary of the Royal Family Honor Code: Poise & Objectivity, Never Make Excuses, Never Retaliate; Respect Others' Plus-R, Be Humble not Arrogant

8. Honor Code Principle #8: Respond with happiness for those who are prospered by the Lord. Respond with compassion for those who are suffering.

Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep [display harmonious rapport among fellow believers: do not depress the mood of those who are joyous or intrude with frivolity or pious platitudes among those who mourn].

9. Honor Code Principle #9: Respect the imputed righteousness of others. Without arrogance be willing to associate with all believers. Do not be opinionated through pseudo wisdom.

Romans 12:16 - Be thinking the same mental attitude toward each other. Do not be thinking in terms of arrogance but associate with humble people. Stop being wise in your own estimation.

NOTE: These principles will not lead to peace on earth but they will create harmony among those who submit to them.

- 1) The verb "to think" is first used as a positive mandate and then as a negative mandate. The first is key to group harmony: be thinking the same mental attitude toward each other.
- 2) The verb is **φρονέω, phroneō**: to think, to have a mindset; emphasizes both the volition and the conscience.
- 3) The present tense is retroactive progressive which denotes that which has begun in the past and continues into the present; also called a durative present indicating persistent action.
- 4) The active voice references the believer as the one who produces the action while the imperative mood makes it a positive mandate to think in the same way as others.
- 5) This obviously does not mean that we all think exactly the same things but that our frames of reference, norms and standards, principles and doctrines are collectively accumulated from consistent Bible study.
- 6) In other words, believers are to have a biblical worldview. What creates group harmony is the ability to think from the source of divine viewpoint. A portion of this divine viewpoint is the royal family honor code.
- 7) This does not infer that we are to be close friends or bosom buddies with everyone, but we are commanded to associate with fellow believers free of antagonisms, respecting their right to worship, grow in grace, and advance in the plan of God along with the rest of us.
- 8) Those who have a tendency to view themselves as spiritual kings (or queens) of the spiritual mountain are dressed down by the second use of the verb, this time as an imperative of prohibition.

- 9) It is introduced by the negative particle μή, *mē* followed by the present active imperative of *phroneō*: “do not be thinking in terms of arrogance.”
- 10) The word translated “arrogance” is the direct object: ὑψηλός, *hupsēlos* which literally means “high,” but figuratively it means haughty, prideful, full of self, conceited, arrogant.
- 11) All congregations are made up of a cross section of the community in which it functions. Some have unfortunate personalities. They deserve time to grow and cannot do so if you look down on them. Either be helpful and encouraging or do nothing at all.
- 12) In this vein we are led to the second half of this double imperative: “but associate with humble people.”
- 13) There are three kinds of humble people: (1) those who are consider others to be below them socially, (2) those who have spiritual self esteem and are free of arrogance, and (3) citizens of an East Texas town.
- 14) If a person is an elitist snob then he qualifies under definition #1; if he is a person who doesn’t think too highly of himself then he qualifies for definition #2.
- 15) The word is ταπεινός, *tapeinos* and it means undistinguished – an ordinary Joe.
- 16) Who are these ordinary Joes? Those are the ones the #1’s conclude are below them. If Mr. #1 is a deacon, he considers all who are not deacons as hoi polloi. If he is a Prep School teacher he assumes he is spiritually advanced and shuns those who choose not to teach. If he is a long-time member on the church’s rolls then he looks down on all newcomers.
- 17) The mandate is to be a gracious person, accommodating to all, superior to none. The way to avoid an arrogant mental attitude is stated in the final mandate of the verse: “Stop being wise in your own estimation!”