

Culture of Honor (Part 1)

Honor is very important foundational element of a Kingdom Church

1) The Significance of a Culture

a) Definition:

- i) Culture: the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group. Example: Youth culture; drug culture; churches have a culture too.
- ii) Culture is an environment which produces something.
 - (1) In the medical world it is very common to grow a fungus or bacteria in a culture medium in order to identify an infection.
 - (2) The verb "Cultivate" is derived directly from the Latin root word for Culture.
 - (3) To culture something is to grow it... to cultivate it, is to create an environment where the growth of thing is natural and easily developed and enhanced.

Most people today live in a culture void of honor. ***An Upside Down Culture***

b) An upside down culture is a culture void of honor

Characteristics of a self-absorbed culture **Isa. 3:1-5 NIV** See now, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both **supply** and **support**: all supplies of food and all supplies of water, the hero and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter. "I will make mere youths their officials; children will rule over them." People will oppress each other— man against man, neighbor against neighbor. The young will rise up against the old, the nobody against the honored.

3:12 Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. My people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path.

i) The Upside Down Culture in the Church

Isaiah identifies three basic hallmarks of a very corrupted culture.

(1) Youth culture will rule the day.

The first is that youth is worshiped in an idolatrous form

(a) Youth celebrated - elderly dishonored

(b) We are addicted to Youth Culture

(c) What happens when Youth Run a Culture?

When you run a culture --- It is incessantly immature and foolish.

(2) Males abdicate while women will seek to dominate

(a) The lack of honor has resulted in the Gender Wars of today.

(b) The Dishonoring of God's plan has created something called a "Gender Wars."

(c) In a Kingdom Church men and women are not adversaries they are allies. We celebrate and honor each distinctive anointing and contribution.

(3) Prevailing atmosphere of honor

“... The young will rise up against the old, the nobody against the honored ...”

In our church culture today people are overly critical, highly opinionated, and generally un-supporting of one another.

2) The Biblical Principle of Honor

a) Believers should seek to outdo one another in showing honor.

Ro. 12:9-10 ESV Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

b) Believers should give honor to the least powerful and the most influential.

1Pet. 2:17 ESV Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

c) Believers should honor those in spiritual authority.

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching

d) Believers should honor the marriage covenant.

Heb 13:4NLT “Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage...”

e) Believers should honor God by honoring his body, the church.

1 Cor. 12:22-25 “.... God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

3) Kingdom Power is Cultured (cultivated) in the Environment of Honor

a) A lack of Honor results in a short supply of kingdom power.

Isa 3:1 See now, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support

Mt, 13:54-58 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.**" ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief

Their lack of honor was the reason for a short supply of Kingdom Power.

- b) Power flows when the gifts of ALL believers are honored.
- c) Grace and honor creates a safe place for faith to develop.

We Honor one another by:

- Respecting who they are in the Kingdom of God.
- Giving grace to others when they make mistakes.
- Encouraging them to take the risk and release their gifts in the church.