

Culture of Honor Part 2

Bill Johnson says: "Giving Honor actually releases the life of God into a situation"

- Many people live in atmospheres void of honor.
- We must give honor to the presence of God, the work of God, and the people of God .

We must recognize:

- God is here.
- God is at work in here.
- God is here to work through you!

This is the posture of faith that releases grace which produces power.

- 1) There is a need for balance teaching regarding honor.
 - a) Have you ever noticed when humans become passionate about some things we tend to take it to extremes?
 - b) A balanced approach to honoring those in church leadership
 - i) One of the ways we show honor to our leaders is by submitting to their authority:
Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - ii) At the same time, leaders are instructed to show honor to the entire body by **SERVING** those they lead: **1 Peter 5:1-3 NIV To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.**
 - c) The American Church struggles with the sin of Pride!
 - i) Pride and arrogance in the pulpit --- self exaltation.
 - ii) Pride and rebellion in the pew --- contentious spirit and a lack of submission.
 - d) The Culture of Honor is taken to the extreme when church leaders operate with a self-exalting attitude, rather than a Christ-like servant's heart.
 - e) An out of balance culture of honor plays right into the sin of pride.
 - i) God has not called anyone to a Rock Star status!

- ii) We need to find the biblical balance between Dishonor (disrespect) and the Fanatical (almost idolatrous) Worship of our anointing servants of God!
- f) Honor Flows from the inside out
 - i) The attitude of honor begins in the heart..
 - ii) The culture of honor is never built around “what I need”. It is built around “what I can give”.
 - iii) Don’t seek honor, seek humility

(1) Luke 14:7-11

(2) Phil 2:3,4

New International Version = Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

New Century Version = When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. ⁴ Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others

2) Apostolic Environment and the Flow of Supernatural Supply

- a) Supernatural Supply:
 - i) Last week in Isa 3:1 the congregation of Israel lost the Heavenly supply and support because they were dishonoring of God and refused to follow his leaders.
 - ii) Jesus could not do many miracles in His home town because they refused to honor Him as the Son of God.

- b) Modern-day church government mentality has an earthly minded and not heavenly focused.

This is why most churches are run with people who are Teachers or Pastors or Evangelist while Prophets and Apostles are neglected or explained away.

- c) Heavenly order of leadership

- i) Scriptures:

(1) 1Cor 12:27-28 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

(2) Eph. 4:20 Paul says, the household of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

(3) Eph 4:11, 12 NIV So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

3) An Apostle is a “Master Builder” (1Cor. 3:10ESV).

4) Seven Characteristics of an Apostolic Environment:

- a) In an apostolic environment worship and supernatural activity are the priorities of the saints because God’s presence and God’s will in the heavenlies is the top priority.
- b) In an apostolic environment the saints are sent, as Jesus was, to destroy the works of the devil. This would include disease, sickness, and oppression of the enemy.
- c) In an apostolic environment the church is a place of abundant joy! For the Kingdom of God is “joy in the Holy Spirit” (Ro.14:17) .
- d) In an apostolic environment the church is place where God desires those who do not know him yet, to experience His love and not serve him merely out of duty.
- e) In an apostolic environment the Body of Christ is being built up and equipped to become His glorious bride... powerful, unified, mature, and fruitful.
- f) In an apostolic environment the church is poised and ready to create a global awakening and impact on the nations.
- g) In an apostolic environment the church is a place where successive generations are being equipped to carry a demonstration of Kingdom revelation.