

BREAKING HINDRANCES TO THE CULTURE OF HONOR

✦ **Kingdom Culture vs. Earthly Culture**

- Kingdom culture is built on unconditional love. It's a culture based on the Tree of Life. The Kingdom's culture cares more about the relationship than achievements.
- Due to the Fall, as Adam ate the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the eyes of men have been twisted to focus on what's right and wrong and what's good and bad. Thus, the earthly culture is cultivated based on one's success and achievements.
- Jesus came on earth to bring back the culture of the Kingdom of Heaven, where relationship between people is more treasured than one's successes.
- This is shown through the Lord's Prayer, as Jesus prays to the Father as a child would make request to a father.
- We long to dwell in the Kingdom's culture. However, due to the earthly culture that we live in, it has tainted us with the mindset of honoring people only if success has been achieved. When reflected in our relationship with the Father, we also strive to "be good," and to do what is right so that we may earn the Father's love.
- Nevertheless, the Father loves us not because of our accomplishment. He loves us because He is love.

✦ **The Three Hindrances to the Culture of Honor**

1. Prior Assumptions to One's Character

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)

- Testimony 1: There was a sister who would often get into conflict with her father due to his presumptions of her character reflected from her past history. Since the daughter used to take a long time to get things done, her father would assume that she is just irresponsible to the errands assigned to her. Due to this assumption, there was an instance in which the opposite happened but the sister was mistakenly wronged by her father. She felt hurt and thought that her father was stringent and hard to communicate. After learning of the Culture of Honor, she asked God to open her eyes to see her father as He sees him. Thus she began to realize that her father was very careful and conscientious to the things he does. She began to honor her father and also asked him if he saw that she was no longer as irresponsible as she used to be. With this revelation, together, the father and daughter's relationship began to improve.
- The reason why we cannot honor each other is because in our speech, we are too straightforward, casual, or disrespectful to one another. Therefore, sometimes God reminds us to be gentle with our words so that we will be able to have stronger relationships with self and one another- which He cares more than our ministry at hand.

2. Fear of Conflict and Self-expression

- In order to avoid conflict, often times we suppress our thoughts and feelings. However, we must be true to our feelings towards one another in order to live out the culture of honor. Expressing our true feelings will also strengthen our relationships.
- Testimony 2: Whenever facing criticizing from another coworker, this brother would always suppress his feelings and accept the criticism of others in order to avoid conflict. Though he did not show his discontent, he would often feel terrible inside. Yet, when this brother began to not fear conflict and started to express what he felt inside when criticisms were thrown at him, not only was his relationship with the other coworker improved but he was also released from his emotional suppression.
- In a culture of honor, we must learn to boldly express our true feelings because Jesus has already paid on the cross for our sins. We have the power of love and life. We no longer live under law so that we grow cold and distant towards one another.

3. Not Recognizing Your Own Weakness

- As a result of the influence of earthly mindset, often times we are unable to honor and at times even despise those who have lower education background, who are rude, or those who can never do things right.
- It is even harder for those who were born talented to be able to sympathize to those who are weaker than they are. Nevertheless, when Jesus came to the world, he reached out for those who were despised- tax collectors and prostitutes. He would eat at tax collector's home and honor them. Consequently, their lives would be changed.
- Jesus would also honor his disciples (for example Peter) because He did not see their weakness at present but the future of what they would become.
- Lots of times, we judge someone according to the outcome of the good and bad of their actions. If our culture of honoring others is based from the result of their actions, it would only increase the power and authority of the enemy on earth as people live in disharmony towards one another.
- Therefore, we must honor one another despite each one's weakness.

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2 : 17)

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3 : 7)

- Peter honored the king in his time though the king persecuted Christians.
- We must also honor everyone. Husbands should also honor his wife as the weaker partner because everyone is created according to God's image. When honor each other, our prayers will also be honored by God.

✦ Creating an Atmosphere of a Culture of Honor

- Think about in what ways are we living contrary to the Kingdom’s culture? How can we create an atmosphere for a culture of honor by changing our anxious, worrisome, and stringent self? For parents, how can you start changing your home environment from a serious environment to a more relaxed and merry one?
- We can also ask God for a new name that reflects the attributes of heaven so that we may live out this new name.

✦ **Action Plan**

1. In what aspects in your life, that you are living contrary to the Kingdom’s culture? Give yourself a new name that you can grow and experience breakthrough in your life.
2. Is there any person in your life that is harder for you to honor? Ask God for actions that you can take to honor that person.

✦ **Discussion**

1. Please share your experience from your action plan.
2. What is the Kingdom’s culture? What is the earthly culture? What kind of things does each culture value the most? Did you have new revelations after listening to the message? In your conduct, speech, and attitude, is there any aspect of it that does not follow the Kingdom’s culture? What actions did/will you take to change it?
3. What is honor? Have you ever been honored or have you ever honored someone else before? Did you see change in yourself or others when you or they were honored? Please share.
4. In what ways or with what kind of people is it harder for you to honor? Do you know the reason behind this hindrance? (ex. Fear of losing control, fear of communicating with other, etc...) How do you plan to breakthrough it?