

## **THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #6**

### **Review**

We have taught 2 weeks on the subject of “Kingdom Authority”.

### **Theme**

**The quality of your Christian life will rise or fall on the question of how you relate to authority. Do you honor it or not?**

Jesus ministered in the earth as a man under authority; some honored Him, some didn't.

### **The Roman Centurion**

The Roman centurion honored Jesus as “a man under authority”. When Jesus offered to come heal his servant he said, “You don't need to come-just speak the word...”

### **Matthew 8:9**

**For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

He received a miracle because of his faith.

### **The People in His Hometown**

On the other hand were the people in His own home town. They did not honor the authority of Jesus; they saw Him only as a man.

### **Mark 6:4**

**But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."**

What was the result of their lack of honoring Him?

### **Mark 6:5-6**

**And He could do no mighty work there except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their lack of faith.**

The centurion and the Nazarenes both saw the same man; but one honored Him and the others did not. The issue was *honor*.

These Jews honored the authority of God; but they cut themselves off from His power when they failed to honor the authority of God had delegated to His Son.

### **John 5:22-23**

**For the Father judges that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

I am personally persuaded that all this applies to the Church today and explains why we don't see more miracles than we do. We have not understood this truth:

### **Theme**

**The Kingdom of God is a culture of honor; where we honor God, honor His delegated authorities, and honor one another.**

So the title of our teaching tonight is...

## **I. Creating a Culture of Honor**

If we want our Church to be a 'Kingdom' church, a place where God's will is done on earth as it in heaven, we have to create a culture of honor.

### **Pastor Bill Johnson**

**"The clear fruit of establishing a culture of honor is that the resurrection life of God begins to flow into our lives, homes, and communities, bringing healing, restoration, blessing, joy, hope and wholeness. If we are not seeing this fruit, we must ask ourselves if we are truly honoring those around us as we ought."**

Let me begin with the basics...

#### **A. Definitions: Noun and Verb**

1. As a noun: What is this thing called 'honor'?

### **Dictionary of Biblical Imagery**

**Honor is a biblical term for respect, esteem, or high regard. It appears nearly 150 times in the English Bibles.**

a. How can a word be used 150 times in the Bible and we teach so little about it?

2. As a verb: What does it mean to “honor” someone?

### **Dictionary of Biblical Imagery**

**To Honor means to acknowledge and show respect for a person’s worth or authority.**

3. Notice that honor is not limited to showing respect to authority; it also means to acknowledge a person’s worth *as a person*.

- **In the military, when an officer enters the room, everyone stands to show honor the officer’s authority**
- In civilian life, when a woman enters the room, a man stands to show honor to her as a person; when the judge enters the courtroom, all stand address him as “Your honor”...
- So what does that look like in a church?

### **Theme**

**In a culture of honor (1) we honor God, (2) we honor His delegated authorities, (3) and we honor one another.**

## **II. Practical Expressions of Honor**

### **A. Honoring God**

1. The highest honor must go to God; not only to honor His authority, but to honor who He is as a Person.

### **Psalm 29:1-2 NLT**

**Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings; honor the Lord for his glory and strength. Honor the Lord for the glory of his name.  
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.**

a. We honor the Lord because of the glory of His name; we honor the Lord with our worship.

b. We always begin our services with worship:

- Because honoring God is our 1<sup>st</sup> priority
- The sermon is for the people; but the worship is for God. (Being late for the worship but in timer for the sermon dishonors God)

**Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary**

**Honor is to esteem and respect. To honor God is to give Him reverence and homage, for God alone is worthy of our highest honor. Second in honor would come the Son of God. Jesus makes it plain that one cannot honor the Father unless he also honors the Son. (John 5:23)**

2. Honor is connected with obedience:

**Romans 2:23**

**You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?**

3. One practical way we honor the Lord with our tithes and offerings.

**Proverbs 3:9-10**

**Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.**

So the 1<sup>st</sup> thing to do in creating a culture of honor is to honor God.

**B. Second: In a Culture of Honor We Honor God's Delegated Authorities**

1. Honor begins in the home: first, in the marriage.

a. The wife is to honor her husband:

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

b. The husband is to honor his wife.

**1 Peter 3:7**

**Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (your wives) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, *that your prayers may not be hindered.***

- c. So honor begins in the marriage between husband and wife...
- d. Then, children are to honor their parents.

- Jesus quoted the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

**Matthew 15:4**

**For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'**

- This shows us how honor is such a serious subject!
- Many miss the fact that Jesus Himself, though He was the Son of God, honored His parents.

**Luke 2:51-52 NASB**

**And (Jesus) He went down with (his parents), and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them...(NLT: :was obedient to them). And (He) kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and (growing) in favor with God and men.**

- If Jesus modeled honor for His imperfect parents, so should we!

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

**Children, *obey your parents in the Lord*, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."**

e. It is the job of husbands, wives, and children to create a culture of honor in the home. Then we go to church.

2. Honoring authority in the Church.

**Testimony**

I remember a meeting with a young man who refused to acknowledge or submit to any human authority in the Church. He said he could not find one scripture to support submitting to authority in the church. I asked him, "Would you change your mind if I showed it to you 3 times in one chapter? I gave him these:

**Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24**

**7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.**

**17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**

**24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints**

The young man would not agree; he insisted no one “had the rule over” him. He refused to honor authority in the Church. And many today do the same.

**1 Timothy 5:17-18**

**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."**

a. This refers to those in the office of the 5 fold ministry: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, especially those who preach.

b. What does he mean by “double honor”? All are worthy of honor; but “double honor” refers to money.

- Paul compares the Pastor who labors in the Word to the ox trampling out the corn, (Deuteronomy 25:4), where the beast was allowed to partake of the fruits of his labors.
- Then he quotes 2 more Old Testament passages on “the laborer is worthy of his wages.”
- Honor is the root word for...

**“Honorarium”**

**A voluntary payment that is given for a service that usually does not require a payment.**

- God calls a man to labor in the Word without requiring a payment; but He supports His ministers through “voluntary payments”.

c. Then Paul has one more word of warning to Timothy about elders:

**1 Timothy 5:19**

**Do not receive (entertain or listen to) an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.**

d. Be careful what you say about God’s ministers! Unfounded accusations against those in authority cannot be allowed if a Church is to be a “Culture of Honor”.

3. Honoring authority on the job:

**1 Timothy 6:1-2**

**Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. 2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.**

a. Paul tells that we are to count our boss, manager, or supervisor as “worth of all honor”, even if they are not saved!

b. If we dishonor our employer, the name of God will be “blasphemed”. When a Christian speaks ill of His boss, he ruins his witness for Christ.

c. Remember this when you’re in the Break Room.

**Review**

We need to create a culture of honor in the marriage, in the home, in the Church, and on the job.

## **II. Practical Applications**

### **A. Practical Applications**

1. Sometimes the best way to understand a thing like “honor” is to think about its opposite, which is “dishonor”.

2. I feel dishonored when someone calls me a dirty name; or shows me the finger; or cuts in front of me in line.

3. I feel honored when someone defers to me, takes time to hear my side of something, or when they call me “Pastor”.

a. My name is “Ray” and it’s never wrong to call me that. But to call me Pastor is honoring to me.

**Danny Silk**

**“Titles are important. Names and titles define a person’s role and identity, and when used correctly, establish God-designed relationships in which specific ‘rewards’ are given and received to build and strengthen us.”**

b. When we honor one another “in the name” we get a reward.

**Matthew 10:40-41**

**He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.**

- If I receive you as a prophet in my life I will receive the reward of that gift
- If I receive you as a righteous man I will receive the reward of your gift
- And this works even in the smallest of honors!

**Matthew 10:42**

**And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, (because he is a disciple), assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."**

c. Titles don’t guarantee honor; many call me “Pastor” but, in all honesty, some really see me more as their Preacher than their Pastor. They can receive the reward of my teaching but not receive the reward of my Pastoring gift.

d. How we honor one another determines what we can receive from them.

4. Showing honor to others is not limited to leaders; it’s not just ‘vertical’, it’s also horizontal, in how we relate to our peers.

**B. Honor Everyone**

**1 Peter 2:17 NIV**

**Show proper respect to everyone. (NKJV: Honor all people). Love the brotherhood of believers. Fear God. Honor the king.**

1. The Bible drips with honor as a core value of the Kingdom.

- All people
- Especially fellow believers
- Fear (honor) God
- Honor the king (meaning earthly political leaders)

2. How do we honor each other?

**Romans 12:10**

**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.**

a. When I put your interests above my own I am honoring you!  
(Parents do this all the time).

**Philippians 2:3-4**

**Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

b. When I show up for our meeting on time, I am honoring you. (Who hasn't felt dishonored by people who show up late or stand you up?)

c. When I greet you by name, when I look you in the eye, I am honoring you.

d. When I take time to hear your side of the story I'm honoring you.

**Danny Silk**

**“If you believe there is more than one way to see things you will keep honor alive even in the most adverse situations.”**

How many offences could be settled if we did this?

What would our homes, our churches and our jobsites look like if we were all committed to “Creating a Culture of Honor”? A bit of heaven on earth.

**III. Close: It is Possible**

**A. Where is it Working?**

1. I have spent the last few years studying the Kingdom Culture created at Bethel Church in Redding, CA.

2. I believe it is the great key to understanding why they see so many miracles. And why hundreds of church leaders visit Redding to learn how they do it. Pastor Bill Joh

**Bill Johnson**

**“Many people live in atmospheres void of honor, and desperately seek our help in creating such a culture. Pastors often ask us to come and teach their church and staff how to show honor. The need is real; but this (culture of honor) is never built around ‘what I need’; it is built around ‘what I can give’. And if I don’t learn how to give it to those who deserve it the least, I will continue to live in a culture without honor.”**

3. Danny Silk, one of their associate Pastors in his book “Culture of Honor”, says it begins with the leaders:

**Danny Silk**

**“In a culture of honor, leaders lead with honor by courageously treating people according to the names God gives them and not according to the names they receive from people.”**

a. Pastors must see people as God says them; so valuable to God He sent His Son to die for them.

b. People give names to people: Lazy, undependable, or other terms of judgment. But God gives His people names like “saints”, “disciples”, “believers”; worthy of honor.

4. The key is learning how to truly value one another!

**Bill Johnson**

**“A culture of honor is celebrating who a person is without stumbling over who they are not.”**

a. For the first few years of my ministry, people would say “Pastor Ray is a good teacher but he has a temper”. True. I had to work that out; but there are many other areas of my life I have to work on.

b. I have come to see people the same way; I celebrate who they are and refuse to stumble over who they are not—where they fall short.

**Craig Groeschel**

**“Honor is a gift that you give freely.”**

5. Every one of us has the ability to give the gift of honor to others; the question is will we choose to do it.

- Acknowledge people, by name when possible
- Learn to listen
- Be quick to serve

### **III. Bottom Line**

#### **A. An Invitation**

1. My prayer is that Celebration Church be a “Culture of Honor”.

2. Will you make it your prayer as well? In the words of Paul...

**Romans 12:9-10 ESV**

**Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.**

3. Prayer and altar call.