



Culture of honour:

HONOUR
GENEROSITY
ACCEPTANCE
AUTHENTICITY
And COURAGE

It's not enough just to know where we're going, we need to know who we're becoming along the way.

Every group develops a culture, a way of doing things together. And that happens either accidentally or deliberately.

Honour is mentioned over 170 times in the bible.

To honour someone = to value them, it means to credit them with worth.

Dishonour is commonplace, honour is enforced by externals.

High Calling to honour.

Romans 12:9-13

9 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 honour.** 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

We look to give honour to others.....

i) with brotherly affection.

To love Jesus is to love what he loves. And he loves the church so much he calls it his bride.

“Honour is juxtaposed alongside brotherly affection.”

John Piper

The Greeks had 4 different words to describe love and affection.

The kind of love referred to “brotherly affection” (philadelphia), = “the affection of a family that comes with long familiarity and deep bonds.”

Conflict:

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.” Matt 18

11 “When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.”

Galatians 2:11

Encourage in writing, challenge in person.

We look to give honour to others.....

ii) more than we seek it from them.

“Outdo one another in showing honour.” 10b

Are you actively looking to honour the people in church around you? with your time, with your resources.

Do you really listen to people? I mean really listen to them? We honour people with our undivided attention.

Who are you serving in the church? Is your desire to be a net contributor or a net taker?

Are you willing to do unseen acts of service in order to honour. Or are some things beneath you?

Not only that but we honour people.....

iii) regardless of position:

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

1 Cor 12: 24

Being part of this church it means to give honour to people regardless of position. To give value to those the world "sees through".

In the same way it means to give honour to those in positions of authority.

1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

1 Timothy 6:1

We honour people

iv) Regardless of whether they deserve it.....in our eyes

26Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:26,27

*29See, this alone I found, that(A) God made man upright,
but(B) they have sought out many schemes.*

Ecclesiastes 7:29

I will honour you if you will show me appreciation.

Bottom line. We are meant to give honour, not to be thanked but because people are made in the image of God. Because God says they're worth it.

We're meant to make an impact, not just love the lovely.

How do we live up to this?

We need to learn to **receive** honour.

Ultimately honour comes from God:

- We have received honour. Romans 5:6-8.

6You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

John 1:12

6And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,

Gal 4:6

“my single responsibility each morning before I do anything else is to find myself happy in God”.

George Muller

We're called to be like that. Not just to keep honour within the church but to get it from God so that we can give it away to everyone around us.

Summary

We look to give honour to others.....

- i) with brotherly affection.**
- ii) more than we seek it from them.**
- iii) regardless of position**
- iv) Regardless of whether they deserve it.....in our eyes**

Resources:

http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/10/193_Love_One_Another_with_Brotherly_Affection/

Simon Mundy: Onions of honour blog

<http://simoninamerica.wordpress.com/2008/11/06/the-onions-of-honour/>