

I. Heart Posture

- A. At the beginning of the year a staff meeting was called by the elders to inform staff of the resolution we had collectively felt concerning the changes we needed to make in 2023 in light of the way the Lord was leading us.
 1. During that meeting a prophetic word was shared concerning the issue of dishonor that existed in our leadership team and church family which was causing a rift in the relationships and health of our church.
- B. As we have brought this word before the Lord we feel that we have received more clarity concerning the issue of dishonor and would like to address this with the entire church family.

II. Culture versus Truth

- A. As we address this issue and pursue the command to honor one another here at Restoration, we must understand there is a vast difference between biblical honor/dishonor and cultural honor/dishonor.
 1. In our culture it is considered dishonoring in general to speak any form of negative criticism concerning another person or entity. It is considered virtuous and honorable to keep our observations and convictions of error or wrong things to ourselves.

III. Biblical Examination

- A. Honor is Supernatural Love - The theme of honor is spoken of in the bible over 350 times as a character trait or attitude that is Godly and Holy. This fact means that to practice walking in an attitude or action of dishonor is to walk in sin and to partner with darkness. This also indicates that we need the supernatural power of the Spirit in us to actually cause us to have honor for one another internally and to rightly express it outwardly. (Ps. 8:3-5, 91:15-16; Jhn 12:26; 2 Pet 1:17)
- B. Three different words are translated “honor” in the scriptures.
 1. OT “Kabad” - To make heavy or to bring weight to a person or thing. For example, “Honor your Father and Mother” (Deu. 5:16; Ps. 66:1-9)

2. NT “Timao” - To fix a value or reverence upon a person or thing. For example: “All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.” (Mt. 27:9; Mk 7:6; Jhn 5:23)
3. NT “Time” - To pay the value due a person or thing. For example: “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 2:7)

C. The place where the theme of honor is used most in the scriptures is in our response to God the Father, to the Son, and in response to one another in the recognition and proper weight given to our uniqueness in calling, gifting, and grace.

1. It is of note that dishonor is defined by a misappropriation of value that is not in line with the truth. If the honor given undervalues the thing or person, then it is dishonored; so too, if the honor given overvalues the thing or person, then it is dishonored.

IV. Personal Introspection

A. As we have prayed through the word shared in our staff meeting, we feel strongly that there are two main areas of dishonor we want to place before this church family to examine and respond to according to the leading of the Spirit.

1. Dishonor of Generations- We believe that there is a clear pattern within our church family of placing a greater value on whatever generation we are a part of and a devaluing of the other. We see this mostly existing between the 40’s and younger and the 50’s and older. (Job 12:12; Pro. 20:29; 1 King 12:6; Mk 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:1-2)
2. Dishonoring Callings - We also believe that there is a pattern of dishonoring the God-given callings in individuals, especially when it comes to the callings that we personally are passionate about or value. This particular area of dishonor is mostly seen and felt in the misappropriation of honor, in other words too much or not enough honor given to certain giftings or titles. (1 Cor. 3:2-10, 12:18-26)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (Ps 139:23-24)