

#MakeSpace

March 19, 2017

Honor is the key to being powerful and effective influencers of our culture.

1 Peter 2:17 (NLT) – “**Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters...**”

HONOR – to highly value, to not take lightly, to give weight to.

- The essence of honor is defined in the personality and character of God.
- It reveals the heart of God to individuals and an entire culture.
- I do not have to agree with you or understand your perspective in order to honor you.
- Honor is not accepting another person’s beliefs and actions, but seeing the value in the person and loving them despite their differences and offenses.
- We cannot reach a culture if we don’t first honor the people in it.

DISHONOR – to shame or disgrace, to fail to observe or respect

- In February, more than 150 headstones of Jews were pushed over in St. Louis. The next week, 100 more vandalized in Philadelphia.
- February 27 – bomb threats at the Jewish Community Centers in Harrisburg and York.
- You see it between Republicans and Democrats and toward our national leaders.
- Honor is the antidote to hatred and division.
- People on the other side of the aisle can bring something to the table if we just made space for them.

Romans 12:10 (AMP) – “[**Let your**] **love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another.**”

- *Give precedence* – Make it so important that you...lead the way for others; model it; go first; pass on the right example so others can follow
- Paul is calling us to lead the way and set the example of honor.

Mark 12:31(NIV)

31 *The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[a] There is no commandment greater than these.”*

Observing this basic principle fulfills the scriptures.

This is God’s model for kingdom living

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

8 *But God **demonstrates** his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ*

died for us.

We must do good to people in advance of their doing good to us!

Show Me The love!

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9-18 (NIV)

9 Love must be **sincere**. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. **Practice hospitality.** **14** Bless those who persecute you; **bless and do not curse.** **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16 Live in harmony with one another.** Do not be proud, but **be willing to associate with people of low position.**^[a] **Do not be conceited.** **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

1. Be Sincere

Romans 5:8 (NIV) **8** But God **demonstrates** his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Love must be felt
- The ability to empathize is crucial

2. Practice Hospitality

John 3:16 (NIV) **16** For God so loved the world that **he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Be generous, don't just say awe, let's go do something
- Use the resources and skills God gave you to bless others
- Participate on boards (non profit boards, school associations etc.)

3. Bless & Do Not Curse

Proverbs 18:21(NIV) **21**The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Our words have the power to create hatred or to build relationships
- Challenge your own bias's
- Be careful not to impose your will on others
- Give up your right to be right!
- You may not always be right - Can you believe that!

4. #MakeSpace - Build relationships with others that are different than you

Mark 16:15 (NLT) **15** And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

- Good News - The way of salvation is through the death and resurrection of Jesus
- Don't just talk it, Walk it out (live the life you preach about)

- People are watching how we live!

Jesus made space

- He ate and socialized with tax collectors & sinners, He socialized with people of different classes & races

Ask yourself this question - Do I only associate with people that are like me?

Be open to MakeSpace!

God is looking for people who will love and honor sincerely!

This will make an impact on our society

GENERATIONAL HONOR

Young and old leading together—this is our calling at CCC!

- The Spirit of God is powerful in ALL people—both young and old.
- He pours out His Spirit on ALL flesh—both young and old.
- *Honor* – to highly value, to not take lightly
- We lead the way in honoring and making space for each generation.
- Honor is placing high value on EVERY age group and not taking them lightly because of their age.

THE VALUE OF YOUNGER PEOPLE

They have a fresh perspective – *“They want to change everything.”*

- Everything may not need to change, but we need fresh perspective lest we get stuck.
- They have a fresh perspective on Jesus because they haven’t been tainted with religion.
- They have a current perspective worth embracing...doing the basics that God calls the foundations of the earth—feeding the hungry, taking care of the poor and the orphans.
- Make space for their perspective—it needs to be heard.

They are risk takers – *“They are compulsive!”*

- Teenagers’ brains are not fully developed and therefore they are prone to take risks.
- We need to be in an environment where we are challenged to take risks.
- Be a voice of wisdom--not a wet blanket!

They will carry the legacy and pass it to those younger.

- We are called to disciple, not stunt.
- Everyone saw David (young) as a shepherd, but Samuel (old) saw a legacy king.

1 Timothy 4:12 – **“Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an**

example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”

- Let's not be those who look down on someone because they are young.
- Remember your youth and how you wanted to be heard and understood.

THE VALUE OF OLDER PEOPLE

- Loyal
- Promote a good work ethic
- Use wisdom and foresight in making decisions