

The Code

Cultivating a Kingdom Lifestyle of Honour and Generosity

Preamble

Vision statement that sets out what we are aiming

For all people to glorify God through knowing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and making Jesus known.

Values - We have seven things we believe are important in establishing our culture to move towards the vision

- A culture where the Holy Spirit is welcome not just as a visitor but to stay.

- Jesus - We want Jesus to be the centre of all we do. We seek his presence, his leading and follow his example.
- Community - We value relationship and seek to grow authentic community.
- Faith - Hope - Love - We want to be clothed in audacious faith, insurmountable hope and extravagant love.
- Kingdom lifestyle - We want to cultivate kingdom lifestyles of honour and generosity.
- Spiritual disciplines - We embrace spiritual disciplines to empower supernatural lives.
- Sacrifice - We want to live humble and sacrificial lives, that serve others.
- Extend - We are committed to advancing the kingdom of God through proclamation and good works.

Expectations of people who call All Nations their family

1. Worship - That you will be committed to our gathering and worship on a Sunday
 2. Prayer - To pray together as a Church family
 3. Community - In a life group, walking this journey with others
 4. Giving - Following the Biblical principal and command of worshipping God with a portion of your income
 5. Serving - Find an area to serve in and be a champion
- I want to remind of us our Values and to help new family members to hear and know them
 - The aim being that we all be committed to making these OUR values

- These were birthed out of a direct response to the Lord in creating a culture that welcomes and sustains a Holy Spirit environment
- They Our CODE - Family Values, the way we do things and a commitment we are making

Introduction - Honour

Cultivate the Kingdom lifestyle of Honour & Generosity.

Allow me to describe two cultures.

- A. A culture in which people are honoured, spoken well too and spoken well off. Where the best is believed and assumed. The benefit of the doubt is given. Peoples destinies are called out from them... 'this is who you are, you can do this, i see this in you.' Honour is a high value and in this atmosphere there is, Life, love, joy, peace, healing, miracles, light, divine energy. Much laughter takes place here, people learn from their mistakes and make positive moves forward, authentic community is formed and forged through honest, honouring, loving conversations.
- B. Second culture is one in which people are always second guessing others, believe the worst, judge by the immature behaviour and weakness of others. Negative, critical and accusing conversations are the norm. It is not a safe place. People are afraid to make a mistake or fail and so build images of perfection but inside the issues are never resolved. Honour is not a value and in this atmosphere judgement, selfishness, fear, manipulation are prevalent. It is an atmosphere of death and darkness.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group [4] and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. [5] In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" [6] They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. [7] When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." [8] Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. [9] At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. [10] Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" [11] "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." **John 8:3-11**

Honour Defined

The Dictionary defines the word “honour” in the following way: “to regard or treat with honour or respect; “an act of giving particular attention; high or special regard.”

Honour is the exact opposite of thoughtlessness and neglect. It conveys a sense of enormous importance to the thing to which it is given. It was an expression of value and worth.

Honour sees people as God sees them

A culture of Honour is rooted in seeing the glory in people and bringing it out.

- Who has God made them to be
- Made in the image of God with purpose to bring him glory
- Everyone has huge potential
- To see past their failure and humanity

Honour is given on the basis of **who** people are, not what they have done or even what they need. **Danny Silk**

A culture of honour is a way of life

Life flows through Honour

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, **Romans 14:17**

You can only transmit what you live under

Jesus in the river Mark 1 - This is my son, with whom I am well pleased

- Honoured, accepted, loved, significant
- Jesus worked from that place of being honoured, loved by his father - it brought huge security, peace and rest.
- We too must live from that place

Jesus - Honouring Others

- Zachaeus come down for I am coming to your house for food
- Woman caught in Adultery - Go your way and sin no more
- Nathanael - Here is a man in whom there is no guile a true Israelite
- Simon - Your name will no longer be Simon but Peter
- Disciples - I no longer call you servants but friends

Conclusion

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1**

John 4:11

LIFE FLOWS THROUGH HONOUR

- Honour is central in a apostolic culture

- Honour contains within it love and trust
- Life flows through honour
- Honour is given on the basis of who people are not what they have done or even what they need.
- Honour is not an idea but a practice of giving.
- There will be no culture of honour without the active use of effective confrontation. The skill of combining these two relational elements honour and confrontation is the key to sustaining an environment of grace

Cultivating a Kingdom Lifestyle of Generosity

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. [2] Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. [3] For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, [4] they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. [5] And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. [6] So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. [7] But just as you excel in everything---in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us---see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2**

Corinthians 8:1-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." [10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. [12] This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. [13] Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. [14] And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. [15] Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

Generosity Defined

- Readiness or liberality in giving

- Freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character

Macedonian Church

- A Church that has been through severe testing, trial and that has
- Led them into extreme Poverty
- This is a Church

1. Generosity is not based upon how much you have

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. **2 Cor 8.2**

- They gave out of severe trial and extreme opportunity

2. Generosity is a choice

- V3. 'Entirely on their own' - No manipulation
- Not just a duty but a kingdom trait

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2**

Corinthians 9:7

3. You are to give with Joy

- V2. 'Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.'

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2**

Corinthians 9:7

4. We are called to be generous on every occasion

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

5. You reap proportionally according how much you sow

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **2 Corinthians 9:6**

Takeaway

We are called to excel in generosity

- But just as you excel in everything---in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us---see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2 Corinthians 8:7**
- Become excellent at
- Look for opportunities for

- Make it your default posture.