

ESTEEMING ESTEEM; HONORING HONOR

WILLIS 7/25/10

Phil 2:1-13

Being that we are 25 years into this process of planting and building CCK, we have been in the midst of a series entitled “Seeing the Forrest from the Trees.” Being that the fallen nature of man is prone to forget, our intent has been to remember what we are doing while we are in the midst of doing it.

- In doing so we have looked at 3 key subjects: **1. Spiritual Intimacy 2. Covenant Community 3. The Way of the Cross**

Today we want to pick up the necessity of relational remembering. **To see the Forrest from the trees we must remember the life blood of the people of God is relational. To compromise relationship is to lose the Forrest from the trees.**

- Any decision that jeopardizes relationship is a decision that misses the mark and gives the devil opportunity for sin.
- This is why Paul tells us in Ep4:3 “To make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” The writer of Hebrews echoes Paul’s sentiment in Heb12:14 saying “Make every effort to pursue peace with all men...”
- **We serve a Kingdom that elevates relationship with others higher than relationship with self.** The Kingdom then gives us expressions like honor and esteem so we can practice regarding others higher than ourselves.
- Honor and esteem is the atmosphere in which the Community grows. Honor and esteem is the culture in which relationships thrive.

In a fallen world where broken relationship is the consequential norm, the ability to cultivate relationship is an ability that will distinguish us as wealthy and set us apart in leadership.

- **The true wealth of an individual is not what they have in relationship to dollars and cents; the true wealth of the individual is measured by their depth and longevity of relationship.**
- Our true wealth will not be measured by what we leave behind; our true wealth will be measured by what we are able to send on ahead. The relationships honor and esteem produce is one of those transferable wealth’s we can send on ahead.

As I considered our relational remembrance before the Lord, my specific sense was the Lord wanted to speak to this issue of esteem or regarding others better than ourselves. **Esteem is simply the practice of verbalizing love.** Esteem is honoring honor.

- Esteem is one of the ways in which felt love becomes known love. In an atmosphere of esteem you can't feel love and not express it.

If we want someone to know we love them we esteem them...regard them better than ourselves...we verbalize honor. **Words of esteem are the manner in which we increase the felt value of others.**

- Take Dawn Marie for example. For years (10) every Sunday morning, every Wednesday night Dawn has volunteered her time to duplicate CD's so we can listen to the messages over and over. Dawn we honor and esteem you for your work.
- How about Alex Lee who has just spent countless hours in installing a brand new sound system. Alex, Lydia and team, we honor and esteem you for the work you do.

Isn't it tragic that for some the only verbalize esteem they will ever receive is when they are eulogized at their own funeral? Unfortunately they are too predisposed or decomposed to enjoy it.

- Honor

So in light of our need to see the Forrest from the trees by remember relationship, let me close by giving us 2 things not to do and 2 things to do.

1. **Do Nothing from Selfish Ambition or Empty Conceit:** In other words, do nothing with self as you're first and foremost concern. Obviously we have to eat, sleep and assume basic care of self but when it comes to the relational issues of life Paul say's, "Do nothing with self as your primary focus."
 - Esteeming esteem is our immunity against selfish ambition or empty conceit. Esteem by its very nature is about others, it has to be given away. **Conceit is what happens when you keep the esteem you were supposed to give to others.**
 - We hear a lot about self esteem. Self esteem is a lot like self compliments. Compliments are to be given to others not spent on yourself. Give esteem to others and let them esteem you.
2. **Do not See One Another After the Flesh: 2Cor5:16** Seeing people after the flesh places a limitation on what God can do in them and through them. Being that we are "treasures in earthen vessels" we must choose to see each other after the treasure not the earth.
 - **Cultivating a culture of esteem is all about honoring the treasure while the earthen vessel is being processed by God.** In a Covenant Community earthenness will be exposed, consequently esteem must be practiced.

3. Regard Others Higher than Yourself: Regard means “to spy out opportunities.” Esteeming others is the intentional, purposeful spying out of opportunities to place others in a position higher than yourself.

- Denying self is the negative action; regarding others higher is the positive. **Cultivating a culture of esteem is the intentional denying of self desire and purposefully promoting the desire of others.**
- You can't have “what we do we do together” without a culture of honor and esteem. Without honor and esteem the desires of the individual will always over ride the togetherness of the whole.
- Unity is only possible through humility and self denial.

4. Make Room for Each Others Gifts and Callings: Esteem means to “place value upon.” To esteem each other is to value the nature and function of each other's gifts. Mercy givers give mercy because they have been given a gift of mercy.

- Problem is this one has been given a gift to rule, so it's easy for there to be tension. **Cultivating a culture of esteem is the manner in which the complimenting gifts can flow together rather than tear apart.**
- Why do the exhorters always have to exhort? Because that is the way God gifted them. If you are full of empty conceit you may get irritated by a person functioning in their gift.
- But if you regard that person and their gift higher than yourself, you will place a value on their gifting that opens you up to its impartation.

Christ Church Kirkland is a relational Community, consequently we must forever increase in our practice of esteeming esteem and honoring honor.