



## WEEK 6: THE ENEMY OF HONOR ~ CONTROL

JEFF HOOVER - OCTOBER 18, 2015 - EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

*Romans 12:10*

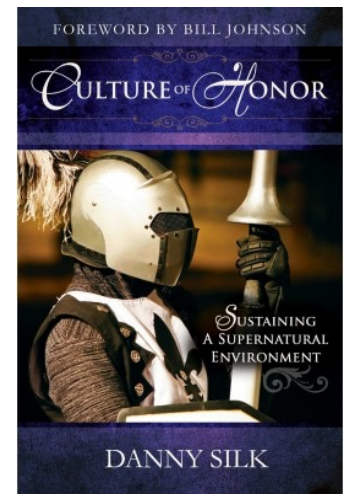
### - CULTURE OF HONOR OPERATING PREMISS: EVERY PERSON HAS VALUE

- **What criteria do you use to assign “value” to something?** The reality is, a thing is worth only as much as someone is willing to pay for it! Here are a couple examples...
  - The value of a **gold coin** is determined by an established standard (*condition, age, how many were made, etc.*), yet its value actually fluctuates from day to day.
  - One of the things that drives the value of a **house** is “the market,” how many people are ready to buy, the number of houses that are for sale in a specific area, and what other similar houses in similar neighborhoods are selling for.
  - The value of a purebred **labrador retriever** is usually greater than a Lab-mix, unless you absolutely fall in love with this particular Lab-mix. In that case, the price you’re willing to pay is negotiable.
- **EVERY PERSON has value simply because Jesus died in order to redeem EVERY PERSON.** Jesus paid the price so that all humanity could spend eternity with Him, not just people who go to church. He truly wants us to understand what is most valuable in the Kingdom of God and be willing to “sell everything” to get it...
  - <sup>44</sup> “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and **sold everything** he owned to get enough money to buy the field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he discovered a pearl of great value, he **sold everything** he owned and bought it! (Matt 13:44–46 NLT-SE)
  - *Anyone who wants to be my disciple **must follow me**, because my servants must be where I am. And **the Father will honor anyone who serves me.** (John 12:26 NLT-SE)*
- What Jesus wants us to understand is **just how valuable we are to Him**, not just Believers, but every single human being...
  - <sup>6</sup> “What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. <sup>7</sup> And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; **you are more valuable to God** than a whole flock of sparrows. (Luke 12:6–7 NLT-SE)
- **A Culture of Honor** functions on the principle that our value is not based upon what we achieve or accomplish, but has everything to do with the price that was paid for our lives through Jesus’ death on the Cross.
  - **God bought you with a high price.** So you must honor God with your body. (1 Cor 6:20 NLT-SE)
  - Our High Priest offered himself to God **as a single sacrifice for sins**, good for all time. (Heb 10:12 NLT-SE)

- **Our value has been established in Heaven, not just on earth!** The transaction really didn't just happen only at the Cross, but also in the heart of the Father in Heaven when He watched His Son lay down His life for us!
  - *22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that **you love them as much as you love me.** 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because **you loved me even before the world began!** (John 17:22–24 NLT-SE)*

## – WHY DO WE TRY TO CONTROL THE PEOPLE WE LOVE?

- **Why do we try to control people?** Unfortunately, we think control will give us the life we want. We are driven by fear, anxiety and shame. At the center of our fear is a feeling of dread that we will not have our needs met. We have crippling a fear of failure, being hurt, criticized, abandoned, disappointed, rejected, or humiliated that leads us to believe the only way we'll get the outcome we want is to control the world we live in. The one's who get hurt the most are those closest to us. **Those we love most pay the greatest price for our control.**
- In **Culture of Honor**, Danny Silk talks about a line we cross that will eventually destroy the very relationships we treasure.
  - "There is a line of demarcation, and it represents where one life stops and another life starts. If we believe that we can control others or that we should to demonstrate our great love, then there is no line. Your life belongs to me when I want something from you. But if I am to honor your life and self-control, then **there must be a line where I stop and you start.**" ~ Silk, Danny (2009-12-28). Culture of Honor: Sustaining a Supernatural Environment.
- What's missing is the conviction that God will give us the **grace** to deal with the pain of living in a fallen world. Without that grace, we are driven by fear to try and fix the broken world we live in. But **God has never commanded us to repair the damage of the Fall.** He simply asks us to **trust him**, one day at a time.
- **"Perfect love casts out fear!"**
  - *17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 **Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.** If we are afraid, it is for fear of **punishment**, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his **perfect love.** (1 John 4:17–18 NLT-SE)*



## – WHAT DOES GOD THINK ABOUT CONTROL?

- Many people believe that when Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep [obey] My commandments," He actually meant, **"If you love Me, you will let Me control you."** Again, Danny Silk frames a response that seem to accurately reflects the heart of Jesus...
  - "When we hear, **"If you love Me,** it's going to show up in how you treat the things that I told you are important to Me. The way you manage yourself in our relationship is going to be a clear indicator to Me of your love. What are you going to do? **I don't want control over you and I don't have control over you. This is why I've given you a spirit of self-control.**" ~ Silk, Danny (2009-12-28). Culture of Honor: Sustaining a Supernatural Environment.
    - A person without **self-control** is like a city with broken-down walls. (Prov 25:28 NLT-SE)
    - *22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and **self-control.** There is no law against these things! (Gal 5:22–23 NLT-SE)*
  - "It is your attention to our relationship and your ability to manage yourself in this relationship in order to create and sustain intimacy that manifests the law of life in Christ. **Intimacy—'In-to-Me-you-see'— is how you learn what is important to Me, and if you love Me, you'll adjust your behavior to protect My heart.**" ~ Silk, Danny (2009-12-28). Culture of Honor: Sustaining a Supernatural Environment.

- We have hope in God, even though we can't see Him. This causes us to be **feel weak**, but the Holy Spirit helps us. He prays for us in a way that bypasses words and perfectly reflects the Father's heart and will for us. As a result **we trust Him**, are confident that the outcome is in His hands, and that He will work out the details...**now, that's freedom!**
  - <sup>26</sup> **The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit **pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.** <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are **called according to his purpose for them.** (Rom 8:26-28 NLT-SE)
- Most people think that Jesus will **control** things in Heaven. No way! The free will He invites us to embrace here on earth will not change or disappear when we get to Heaven. **What will change is our hearts.** Our hearts will be **pure.** Our love for Him will cause us to want nothing less than to enjoy Him forever! It's the "*chief end of man,*" to "*glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*" (The Shorter Catechism) **This is what He has always wanted, voluntary lovers, and this is exactly what He will get!**

## - FREEDOM IS WHAT WE'RE AFTER IN A CULTURE OF HONOR

- *Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.* (Gal 5:1 NLT-SE) He's saying, "All right, you have two choices. If you want to, you can live a life protecting your relationship with the rules. But if you want to commit your life to preserving your relationship with the rules, then you will find yourself in the Old Covenant."
- **Danny Silk** mentions the word "freedom" 98 times in his book, Culture of Honor. Here are a few of the things he says about freedom...
  - "When people are given choices, it reveals **the level of freedom** they are prepared to handle."
  - "The Gospel comes alive as the saints apply and manifest true love and freedom in their lives. This anointing allows God to **cultivate His heart in His people.**"
  - "In order to lead free people, we must establish both an environment for them to **gain freedom** and a government for them to **keep that freedom.**"
  - "There is a way to lead people into freedom in such a way that **personal responsibility** rises to the surface. It requires us to trust people...People want to be trusted and they want to be free."
  - "The higher goals of Heaven require us to cultivate and preserve love, and thus freedom, for **you cannot have love without freedom.**"
  - "The goal of God's leadership in our lives, and consequently, the goal of church leaders, is to create a safe place for us to discover who we are and why we are here. A safe place is a place where the fear of misused freedom doesn't get to rise up and intimidate us out of risking trust and love in our relationships with one another. A safe place is what gets cultivated when freedom is expressed through love. The essence of love is safety and connection."
- **Creating an environment of trust and honor** allows people to be free - free from **control, punishment** and **fear.**
- **The culture of honor is** not about giving the church's leaders more control...

**It is much more about getting rid of control and cultivating self-control and freedom!**

The Church is to lead in bringing **more freedom** to the earth. **Heaven is begging to invade the prison so many people live in**, whether it is depression, pain, disease, or fear. Our role is to eliminate those things in our lives, homes, and church communities so we can lead others to the peace, joy, freedom, and love we've found for ourselves. ~ Silk, Danny (2009-12-28). Culture of Honor: Sustaining a Supernatural Environment.