

Walls into Windows – Week 2
Honor

Welcome to CHC. Your presence matters and we are grateful you have gathered with us today.

Our teams work really hard to make this church feel like your church.

We are in week 2 of our series called Walls into Windows.

For all of you millennials, don't get it confused with from the window to the wall.

This series is all about our relationships. I don't believe there is anything more important in this life than relationships.

If I were to ask you, what do you want most out of life? Most of us would rank healthy relationships high on the list.

Except for knowing Christ and having eternal life, healthy relationships make life enjoyable perhaps more than anything else.

Think about it for a second...even if your health isn't the best, if you have loving relationships, you can enjoy life.

You can make a pile of money, but if your relationships are broken or shallow, your life will be empty.

A poor man with a loving family and good friends is far richer than a rich man who is poor relationally.

This is from a human perspective but look at this...

The Bible ranks healthy relationships as the most important thing in life. A Jewish religious expert asked Jesus in **Matthew 22.36-40** | ³⁶ **“Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?”**³⁷ **He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** ³⁸ **This is the greatest and most important command.** ³⁹ **The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ **All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”**

A loving relationship with God is of first importance; but loving relationships with others is second. The Bible is all about these two important relationships.

We believe great relationships can and do exist. Marriages can be healthy and great. Kids don't have to hate their parents.

Scripture gives us many tools to on how to relate to him and each other.

Jesus understood that the most powerful force in the world is a relationship. He made building unbreakable bonds with a few men the core of His strategy.

So, throughout this series we are going to look at some of the most vital aspects of having healthy relationships.

Last week we talked about humility. Humility plays a part in strengthening or causing struggle to every single relationship we have. Having a humble spirit is a theme that is consistent throughout scripture.

The fundamental attribute I want to look at today is honor.

If there are relationships in your life that are currently stuck behind walls...honor can help make a window.

Honor as taught in the Scriptures is far different from the type of honor sought after by the world. Honor and awards are heaped upon those with wealth, political clout, worldly power, and celebrity status.

The Bible teaches that honor is found in God and His Son and in our being like Him. We find many different examples that are listed in scripture that we are to give honor.

Honor - Values, respect, highly esteems, treats as precious.

Dishonor – Treats as common, tears down, belittles, criticizes, de-values.

We all have this internal desire to be honored or respected...when we don't get it.... we work to tear down our spouse or whoever isn't giving us the honor we think we should get.

Why do we do this? It's in a desperate attempt to convince ourselves that their lack of honor is meaningless.

God has a solution. If we adopt it, it will revolutionize our relationships.

While most people fight to *receive* honor, God calls us, Christians to focus our efforts on *giving* honor.

Truth: This failure to show honor is really more telling about us than it is them. When I don't give honor its not because they don't deserve it, it's because I'm not spiritually mature enough to give it.

My lack of honor puts walls where windows should be.

Let's quickly look at a story or two where we see this happening.

Stand with me in honor of the reading of Gods Word.

Mark 6.1-6 | Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? ³Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵He **could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.**

A prophet will get honor everywhere except by the people who know him best.

The relationships that are closest to us reveal themselves over time. The longer we are with or around someone their weaknesses become more familiar to us and often honor becomes harder to give. (I know what kind of person they really are)

Jesus was just one of the boys here in his hometown. The people were amazed at His teaching but then something changed.

Isn’t this just the carpenter? There is nothing special about this guy. He made our kitchen table. We know his momma and them. He’s the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon.

The took offense that he thought He was better than all of us.

Vs. 5 | ⁵He **could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.**

A lack of honor and a lack of faith limited what Jesus could do in their lives. They weren’t spiritually mature enough to give honor where honor was due. The trusted in their own wisdom.

Jesus came to be the window for them...instead, they put up walls.

What blessings, prayers, miracles, did God want to do for you, but you lacked honor, so he didn’t?

This failure to show honor is really more telling about us than it is them.

Another story we can relate to is by the apostle Paul when he writes his letter to the church in Corinth.

He knew the church was full of quarrelsome people, worldly infants, unlearned people, arrogant men, a man sleeping with his father’s wife, greedy men suing other believers, childish thinkers.....yet he still honors them by saying...

Corinthians 1.4a | ⁴I always thank my God for you...

He knew them well enough to know their faults and struggles, but he continued to pray for them and be thankful for them.

How? Why? **1 Corinthians 1.4b** | ⁴I always thank my God for you *because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.*

God hit me hard this week...

“We can be thankful for our fellow sinners when we spend more time looking for evidences of grace than we do finding fault.” – C.J. Mahaney

If my wife is more aware of where she falls short in my eyes than she is of how I am watching God work in her life, then I am a legalistic husband. I am not honoring, I am dishonoring.

Giving honor is not you just doing a favor for someone....it's an obligation.

It's an act of maturity birthed out of a profound understanding of God's grace.

Giving honor to others brings light and life into our lives.

Honor causes everything around us to elevate and attracts the blessing of God. But if that's going to happen we need to be people who intentionally practice honor.

We need to restore a culture of honor within the body of Christ. Its starts in your house.

Jesus went to his hometown, and He didn't do mighty works because they didn't have any honor.

Dishonor shuts down what God puts in people.

Who then should we honor?

God – 1 Timothy 1.17 | Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- we honor him with what he gives us. It all comes from God.
- we honor him with our bodies. (Different from the world)
- we honor him with our worship

Parents – Ephesians 6.2 | Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise...

- Show them your gratitude
- Treat them with great respect
- Ask for their wisdom and advice

- Pray for them and with them
- Encourage them
- Forgive them

BTW...when we teach children to honor in the home and it will happen outside the home. (yes sir, no sir)

Leaders in Authority – Romans 13.1 | Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.

- you can disagree without dishonoring.
 - Pray for those we voted for and those we didn't.
- (Saul was trying to kill David....David still showed honor)

Pastors/Elders – 1 Timothy 5.17 | The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

We are instructed to give double honor to our spiritual leaders. I'm not going to make this about me...but I do want to park here for a second.

I believe the people who pour into your kids each week are deserving of our honor.
The people who invest in your teenagers.
The people who lead your small group or Bible Study.

Spouse – Ephesians 5.33 | To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This verse suggests that honor is primarily a matter of the heart.

So in marriage, it involves recognizing the beauty and worth of your relationship with your spouse and then doing something to put that recognition and appreciation into action. It's about dedication, heart and soul, to building strong foundational qualities into your marriage relationship.

Choose to honor your spouse both in and out of the house. Do for them what you want them to do for you.

Everyone – 1 Peter 2.17 | Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Honor *all* people... Not just good people, deserving people, powerful people, important people, influential people or people who can help you in some way, but *all* people.

In other words, even those that are broke and busted and can never do anything for you in return. *Honor all people.*

Imagine a world where people showed honor like that; imagine your job like that, your government like that, your church like that. What a world it would be – sign me up!

As you can see, the Bible talks a lot about giving honor. But here is where the human, sinful side comes in...but they don't deserve it.

You're probably right....**Respect is earned, Honor is given.**