

## ***Fanning it into Flame***

**Sunday, August 21, 2011**

### **Honor**

I've been taking a course with Global Legacy out of Bethel Church in Redding, CA. Each month they select a cultural theme to equip the local church. Their desire is to train church leaders to bring their congregations into revival and learn how to sustain it, believing that it is not meant to fizzle out after a three year stretch. This month's theme is **Honor**. It's not a topic that I ever really meditated on. While I certainly believe in honor and know that we are commanded to give honor where honor is due, I never considered it as a mainstay of the church. This study has helped open my eyes to see that we truly need to develop a culture of honor here at Grace. That means that we need to get it into the fiber of our being and have it touch every area of our lives. If our lives here on earth are kind of a practice round or proving ground for Heaven, we need to follow the Heavenly pattern. Jesus taught us to pray "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Let's peer into Heaven and get a peek at what needs to be carried out on earth.

#### **Revelation 4:8-11 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."* <sup>9</sup> *Whenever the living creatures **give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,*** <sup>10</sup> *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: <sup>11</sup> **"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*** (emphasis mine)

#### **Revelation 5:11-14 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they sang: **"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*** <sup>13</sup> *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: **"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"*** <sup>14</sup> *The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.* (emphasis mine)

A definition of honor includes: high respect, as for worth, merit, or rank; high public esteem; fame; glory.

God is worthy of praise and needs to be shown the honor that is due his name in all that we do. The writer of Proverbs includes giving as a way of honoring the Lord and acknowledging our relationship with him.

**Proverbs 3:9 (NIV)** *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;* God denounced the priests in the Book of Malachi when they were dishonoring him by offering injured, crippled, or diseased animals for their sacrifices and then complaining about it. Jesus quoted Isaiah the prophet calling the people hypocrites in **Matthew 15:8 (NIV)** *"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."* God demands honor, not because he needs it, but because we do. As we honor him our lives are changed and we become like him. It doesn't stop there. He wants honor to be a lifestyle for us in the way we treat **one another**. We are created in the image of God and all reflect a measure of his glory. As we honor one another we are also honoring him. In **Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)** the Apostle Paul writes: <sup>1</sup> *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* <sup>2</sup> *"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--* <sup>3</sup> *"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."* Honor was a prerequisite of enjoying a long life. Consider the converse! Dishonor... a short unenjoyable life! Then in **Romans 12:10 (NIV)** He writes: *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.* We can get so wrapped up in ourselves and our own needs that we short-circuit what God wants to do in our lives. **Let's begin to think of ways to honor the Lord and one another. Amen!**