

Home Front

May 24-25

That it May Go Well

Introduction

Hey everyone, I'm Mark and I want to welcome you to our service! Today we're continuing our family series, *Home Front*. Because in the battle for Godly communities, our families are home-base — lose that and the whole mission collapses. What good is it to win the battle for the world if we lose the war for our homes? British Missionary C.T. Studd said, "The light that shines farthest, shines brightest near home." Any victory we hope to have on the frontlines — in culture and in our communities must first begin on the Home Front.

Jesus said, ¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house,"* (Matthew 5:14-15).

Before we take the hill, we must first give light to everyone in the house! Even when the Israelites lost their land, their temple, and their king — they kept their light on at home. When revival broke out in the early Church it didn't spread from platforms and stages but from table to table. It was less about rows and more about circles.

Not long ago I went to a celebration of life for a dear Pastor friend who went into glory. The sanctuary was packed. One by one members of the Church and the community went up to share about how he had impacted their life. And I kept thinking, "How did he have time to impact so many people?" But the moment that stayed with me most was when his own children went up to speak. "The same man you've heard about this evening in Church and in the community was the same man we saw at home," they said. "Who you saw in the pulpit was who we saw at home. In fact, we have no idea how he made time to love so many people because we always felt like we had him all to ourselves!" This man's light shined brightly in the world but it shined brightest at home.

Sadly, headlines and Churches have been plagued with too many stories of Pastors and leaders who beam with brilliance in public but go dark at home. Jesus never separated public witness from private faithfulness. He expects the light to shine brightest where we are most known and most tested, with the people who get unfiltered version of us — the pre-caffeinated no airbrush, just stepped on another lego version. This next revival won't be sustained in stadiums but in living rooms. If our friends and family want to see Jesus in us, they're not going to check our posts or our platforms but our homes, our marriages and families.

A Culture of Honor

If revival begins in the home, we need to talk about something that will either ignite or extinguish the light of our witness — A culture of honor.

Let's talk about something that everyone in this room has felt — we are living in a society of cynicism, cancel culture and deep division. But this widening gap isn't just cultural, it's spiritual. And the divisions that seem to get the most airtime are political or racial but today I want to address a growing rift that may be the most detrimental of all — the generational rift.

There is a heartache in older generations who feel dismissed, disrespected and discarded. And an outcry from younger generations who feel unheard, unseen and betrayed. Let's be clear: Satan isn't satisfied with generational disagreements — he's after generational divorce. Can the generations come together as one or are there too many irreconcilable differences?

There's an entire generation of young people who feel like they were sold a bill of goods. They were told the system works but it doesn't seem to be working for them. They were raised on the promise that if they worked hard, went to college, and followed the path, they'd succeed. Now many are buried in debt, priced out of housing, and struggling to find meaningful work. They're navigating anxiety, burnout, and disillusionment while watching the systems they were told to trust slowly break down. It feels like previous generations were playing monopoly on round 1 but now, 10 rounds later, every property is taken and rolling the wrong number could result in immediate game-over.

Due to mounting tensions, honor is in short supply. Instead of correction, we choose cancellation. Instead of conversation, we choose condemnation. Instead of honor there is hostility. But with the cancellation of honor go the promise of blessing and generational legacy. This has been the Devil's strategy from the start. He's playing the long game.

The Significance of Honor

Satan's strategy, going all the way back to Eden, has been to divide what God wants to unite. The enemy knows that if he can turn the hearts of the fathers away from their children and the hearts of the children away from their fathers then a house divided cannot stand. Why? Because God always works generationally. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Wisdom, identity, blessing, and inheritance are transmitted generationally. God's wants to create a lineage of spiritual inheritance, the enemy's strategy is create a generation of spiritual orphans. Honor is the key to generational blessing.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you," (Exodus 20:12).

¹ "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"— which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth," (Ephesians 6:1-3).

You see, the Ten Commandments were not just a list of do's and don'ts. They were also not a list of things you need to do in order to be saved. God had already delivered the Israelites from bondage and captivity and was now giving them the constitution of what it looked like to live as citizens of His Kingdom and under His reign. So notice that honor is essential to living in the Kingdom of God. And God guarantees that as the people honor they will prosper. But this is speaking to something deeper than material wealth, prestige, or reward — it is speaking to continuation. God isn't speaking to individual success. He's saying, if you honor, then you will live long and prosper in the land I am giving you. You will continue from generation to generation. What I bestow to you will be inherited by your children's, children's, children. You can't have a legacy without a lineage and honor perpetuates that spiritual lineage.

We live in a culture that glorifies the "self-made man" or the "self-made woman". The entrepreneur, the influencer, the "Mom-boss". The narrative is: "I got here by my own hard work. I put in the hours, I stuck to the grind, I built this." Independence is seen as strength and pride is mistaken for progress.

If anyone could make this claim it's Arnold Schwarzenegger. An immigrant from rural Austria who became a world champion bodybuilder. Being criticized for his accent and lack of acting skills he went on to become one of the most successful Hollywood icons. But that wasn't enough. From savvy businessman he went on to become the "Gubernator" of California. He seemingly conquered every field he entered through grit, ambition, and a relentless work ethic.

But I recently watched an interview with Arnold where he said something that completely blew me away. He said, “You can call me anything you want, but don’t call me a self-made man. I got a lot of help.”

He went on to honor his mother for instilling discipline, his father for teaching him about hard work, his mentors in bodybuilding, the immigrants who came before him, and even America itself for the opportunity it gave him.

He said, “The only thing I can tell you is, every time I do something — like I’m here today — I’m standing on the shoulders of giants.” Who are you standing on the shoulders of? Do we honor those who came before us?

Kris Vallatton from Bethel Church said, “Honor is the currency of Heaven. It’s how we transfer inheritance across generations.”

So scripture shows us the power of a culture of honor. Wisdom is transmitted, faith is inherited, blessing is imparted, identity is bestowed. Where there is honor a people prosper and live long in the land for generations and generations.

The Absence of Honor

Where honor is absent we see the opposite take place. It’s not just about disrespect or bad behavior — it’s far deeper than that. When honor disappears, identity fractures and inheritance is lost.

Through the narrative of being “self-made”, the erasure of history and tradition, and the criticism of all that has come before, the enemy is to destroy the chain of generational blessing. We are forgetting who we are and where we come from. And this isn’t a sociological issue — it’s spiritual.

Paul writes to his Spiritual Son Timothy about what the days will be like in an honor-less society where everyone stands on their own pride and self-achievements,

1 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people,”

(2 Timothy 3:1-5).

This is a prophetic diagnosis of a generation that has lost honor — and with it, its identity, inheritance, and intimacy with God. Without honor identity is invented not inherited. Like the prodigal son — inheritance (wisdom, faith, legacy) is squandered instead of stewarded. Instead of Sons and Daughters you have Spiritual Orphans. Pride perpetuates — You can’t walk in what you don’t live out. Honor cannot be received if it is not given. Revival stalls because God flows through lineage and not ego.

5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction,” (Malachi 4:5-6).

Establishing a Culture of Honor

In these last days God is pouring out His Spirit to turn the hearts of parents back to their children and the hearts of children back to their parents.

We need to understand what Kingdom honor looks like so that we may partner with Holy Spirit and unleash a Spiritual Legacy.

Worldly Honor: Merit-Based

In society, people either gain or lose honor based on their words, actions, or status. The world honors based on merit. “Is that person deserving of my honor?”

Kingdom Honor: Mantle-Based

Honor is given in recognition of a God-given mantle of authority not personal merit.

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God,” (Romans 13:1).

Even if we don’t admire the person, we honor the role God has given them because we trust God’s sovereign choice. One of my favorite examples of this in scripture comes from the life of David.

David has already been anointed the next king of Israel but he is currently on the run because the current king is trying to kill him. While hiding, David finds king Saul relieving himself in a cave and his men urge him to take Saul’s life. Makes sense right? “God has already chosen you, Saul is evil, let’s end this and all go home.” But instead of killing him, David merely cuts off a corner of Saul’s robe.

⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” ⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way,”
(1 Samuel 24:5-7).

Did David admire Saul? No. Honor isn’t about perfection — it’s about position. You don’t honor because someone is flawless, you honor because of the role they play in God’s generational story. And not only did David spare Saul’s life, he felt remorse for cutting the corner of his robe. You see, the king’s robe was a physical representation of the mantle they carried. Sometimes, we don’t torpedo leaders we don’t like but we cut little corners from their robe. A passive-aggressive comment, a disparaging post, not giving our best. But God urges us to work as unto Him and to offer petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving for all people — including those in positions of authority (Yes, even the ones we don’t like). It isn’t because we admire them but because we trust God’s sovereignty.

Worldly Honor: Self-Made

In society, people assert their worth, seek titles, expect recognition, and get offended when it doesn’t come. People prop themselves up with platforms and prestige.

Kingdom Honor: God-Given

Kingdom honor is not demanded but bestowed. Kingdom honor is not something that is earned but something that is entrusted. It’s not about making a name for yourself but exalting the Name of Jesus.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up,” (James 4:10).

“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted,” (Luke 14:11).

Jesus did not come demanding that we exalt Him. He humbled Himself, served others, and was without honor nearly everywhere He went. He washed His disciple’s feet, gave honor to those the world disqualified, and didn’t Lord Himself over anyone. He lowered Himself to the lowest point and God exalted Him to the highest place.

What would happen if we rebuilt bridges of honor between the generations? Not dismissing faults or mistakes but choosing to reconcile and honor the God-given mantle. What if we chose to humble ourselves and serve those around us? Might we see greater transference of faith from one generation to another? Might we restore lost identity? Satan wants spiritual orphans but God wants to raise up Sons and Daughters. Satan wants generational divorce but God wants generational revival.

Conclusion

As we come to the close of our service—we’re reminded that this weekend holds national significance: Memorial Day. It's more than just a long weekend or the unofficial start of summer. Memorial Day is a sacred time to honor and remember those who have laid down their lives in service to our country.

We honor their sacrifice. We remember their courage. And we recognize that we stand on freedoms paid for by the blood of others.

As followers of Jesus, we also know that all true freedom—physical, spiritual, eternal—flows from the greatest act of love and sacrifice the world has ever known: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John 15:13,

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

This is the heart of Memorial Day. And it’s also the heart of the Gospel. It’s why we remember—not just what has been done for us by others, but what has been done *in us* by Christ.

So today, as we remember the fallen, we also remember the Risen One.

And in that remembrance, we are invited not only to gratitude, but to legacy. Because the best way to honor the sacrifice of those who came before us is to live lives worthy of that sacrifice. To carry the torch. To advance the Kingdom.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How would you diagnose the current state of honor in government, workplaces, classrooms, and homes? What do you think are contributing to the erosion of honor in society?
2. Who do you find hardest to honor? (Government leaders, Parents, the Poor?) How might a believer honor the mantle without excusing or condoning behavior?
3. What can we as a community of believers do to perpetuate generational honor in our homes and beyond?