

Culture of honour – how does it work in the New Order?

Waltraut Reimer

Premise:

- Everyone is precious, is loved, and has a God-given destiny.
- Everyone has power over himself, not over other people.
- Everyone is in control of himself, not of other people!

I don't control you with the way I behave, I practise self-control.

Neither do I react to your behaviour. Your character defects will never control how I conduct myself.

- Culture of honour is not about being nice and submissive.



Goal:

To bring out the best (the gold) in you

To make us aware of our blind spots so we can deal with them

To create authentic loving relationships without the fear of being controlled

How culture of honour works:

- I see you sin against another, hurting someone else
- I see you behave in a way that damages you and will prevent you coming into your God-given destiny
- You hurt me with the way you behave

I will never

- react in anger when you sin against me (using a cutting tone of voice, – reprimand – speak harshly – accuse, put the blame on you - coming against you in the same spirit). That requires me to work on forgiving and releasing you before I come to you so that I have no negative emotions.
- come to punish you
- try to disempower you by being dominant and exercising control over you
- come to tell you that **you** are the problem, that **you** need to change in order that **I** will feel better. (In this case the focus would be me and my wellbeing, I would be selfish.)

I will instead

- come to you (after I have worked through my own issues) because I love you and want you to come into all that God has for you (here the focus is **you** and **your** wellbeing.)

- come to bless and empower you through confrontation. (the basis for that kind of confrontation is that you will trust me, you will stay vulnerable while I tell you the truth – and vice versa – otherwise this does not work).
- come in the opposite spirit: love! You don't fear being controlled because you don't believe you can be. I can't *make* you do or feel anything; you are free and in control of yourself.
(Example: "Your tone of voice *makes me* angry..." "you *make me* feel cross when you do that" "You *never* listen to me, it *makes me* sick" – NO, you are in control of yourself and your reactions. I don't control your behaviour or feelings with what I do. It is your decision to be sick, angry or cross and you can do something about it! You are powerful and in control of yourself).
- be clear with you about the pain you caused me as a result of your choices (of behaviour, words, attitude etc.). While I do that I see you as precious and look for the gold.
- I will not come to you as the dominant one who will point out your problems, but I will come with questions that will confront you and help you to find the answers for yourself, questions that help you to look into your behaviour, reactions, attitudes, and motives (trading floors) and in the end bring out the best in you.
Bringing out the best in you requires that you clean up your mess, that you take responsibility for the effects of your choices of behaviour, speech, attitude etc.
- I will not reject you but honour you when your opinions are different from mine because of our different redemptive gifts and viewpoints. We will learn to celebrate each other's' differences.

This process does require trust and self-control, but in the end it will always help everyone.

It helps me...

- if I still feel cross and don't even want to see the gold in you but want to cut you down to size to appear bigger myself – then I need help and healing myself.
- if I am not willing to "die" for you, to forgive your wrongs, to come to a point where I see you the way God sees you, then I myself need help before I talk to you.
(What are my own root issues? Do I still have insecurities? Could it be that past rejections, abandonment issues, betrayals or previous wounding have not been worked through and are still influencing me? Which of my spirit- or soul- gates are still blocked by familiar spirits? Where do I still look for fulfilment from people instead from God – trading floors?)

It helps you

If I ask the right questions it will help you see your blind spots, see the dust that is dulling the shine of your gold, and you will go and deal with that, get help and healing. - So both of us win!

Examples of helpful Questions:

- I was wondering if you were aware of how you affected that person when you said that.
- I was wondering if you heard what you just said to me, did you mean that literally.
- I was wondering if you were trying to be disrespectful the other day when you said this, that and the other.
- I was wondering...
- So what are you going to do?
- How's that working for you?
- Do you want any help with this, or do you want to handle this yourself?

These kinds of questions help you to think and realize how powerful you are. The purpose and the power in the questions is to help you (through confrontation) to see the truth and to bring to light what is injuring the relationship, what is damaging the connection, what is preventing you from growing and coming into everything the Lord has for you. So you can respond and do something about the need.

If the way we practised the culture of honour in the Old was already challenging, then this is **extremely** challenging, but it is necessary. In the "new land" ahead of us are still many enemies we need to subdue and overcome. But they will quickly cause us to trip and fall over these personal issues if they are not resolved. If we are still offended at anything someone else does or says, then our flesh is still very much alive; dead people are not offended at anything!

Let's work through transformation at a much deeper level than before so all of us can become what God made us to be in order to fulfil our God-given destiny now and in eternity!