

**Body Building - Part Four**  
**“Caught Giving Honor” – Dealing with Respect**  
*Pastor Dale Campfield - May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

**Intro:**

**Matt 28:19** “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

**ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve**

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

**Premise of Series:** To Build up the Body of Christ in Order to Make a Kingdom IMPACT.

**Theme Verses:** Eph. 4:11-16

**Key verse 12**

"Prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

**Question:** Why is this important?

**Answer:** Because the return of Christ is coming soon, and we, as the body of Christ, must do everything we can to make as great of an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God in the hearts of the people in the path of our life that we can. (Show our path to Discipleship here)

**Series Overview:** Here is what we will be dealing with during this series...

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Part 1 – “Caught by God”...         | ...Dealing with Intimacy  |
| Part 2 – “Caught Red Handed”...     | ...Dealing with Sin       |
| Part 3 – “Caught Empty Handed”...   | ...Dealing with Obedience |
| Part 4 – “Caught Giving Honor”...   | ...Dealing with Honor     |
| Part 5 – “Caught Loose Lipped”...   | ...Dealing with Strife    |
| Part 6 – “Caught without Excuse”... | ...Dealing with Confusion |
| Part 7 – “Caught Silent Lipped”...  | ...Dealing with Worship   |

Let’s continue.....

**Part 4 – “Caught Giving Honor”...                      ...Dealing with Respect**

Today is the day in which we celebrate Memorial Day here at Eastgate Community Church. We have honored our veterans, and shown respect and remembered those who have given their lives for the freedom that we have as Americans. To you, veterans, we owe a lifelong debt of gratitude because you were willing to go, to serve and to give on behalf of the United States of America and on behalf of the principles that has made this nation the greatest nation on the earth! God bless you!

Someone wrote: IT IS THE VETERAN

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, Who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician, Who has given us the right to vote.

VETERAN, we salute you today, VETERANS - thank you for who you are

And the sacrifices you have given; Veterans - we honor you this day.

This morning I want to speak with you about honor and about honoring. Will we be caught giving honor, or dishonor to people?

**Romans 13:7** (God's Word Translation)

"If you owe someone respect, respect that person. If you owe someone honor, honor that person."

What does 'honor' really mean?

There are two insightful words for 'honor' is used in the New Testament.

'timaw' - a great price, dear, esteemed - that which is dear to the heart

'doxazw' - to cause the dignity or worth of a person or thing to become, recognized, valued and honored.

Opposite of honor is disgrace

Honor on achievements and even better - on character

Honor follows humility

When we honor someone, we are sitting in their balcony. We're lifting them up, we're encouraging them, cheering them on, esteeming them, etc. When we disgrace someone, which is the opposite of honor, we're sitting in their basement; tearing them down, disrespecting them, etc. Balcony People give sincere compliments. They truly mean it when they are complimenting someone. Basement People give flattery. That is a terrible perversion to the real thing of complimenting someone. Flattery is insincere and manipulative. It is motivated entirely by Self Interest. Always remember, being in the balcony makes you no better than them; just supportive.

## Five Ways to Be Caught Giving Honor

### 1. BE SENSITIVE

Tune in. Become aware of the needs around you.

#### **Phil. 2:4**

"Each of you should look not only to your own interest but also to the interests of others."

Be aware. If you care, you'll be aware. Two things about this point:

#### **A) Everybody's having a tough time.**

Everybody sitting around you is having a tough time, just in different areas.

#### **B) The number one cause that keeps us from being kind is busyness.**

When I get too busy, I don't have time to be kind. I'm the least kind to my children, my wife, to other people. When I have my agenda, my goals, my desires, my thing – I've got to do what I've got to do and I don't have time to be kind. If I were to ask you, What are the three greatest emotional needs of the people closest to you this last week, would you be able to answer? Kindness starts with a way of looking, be aware, be sensitive. **If you care, you'll be aware.**

### 2. BE SUPPORTIVE

In many ways, in you actions, your lifestyle, behavior, etc...however...

#### **A) Be supportive in your speech in the way you talk to people.**

The way you talk to people can be the most supportive thing you do in a person's life.

#### **Prov. 15:4 (GN)**

"Kind words bring life but cruel words crush the spirit."

Do you remember how ruthless kids were on the playground when you went to school?

They'd exploit every weakness, rub in every failure, go for the jugular. You'd be hurt, you'd go home and your mom would say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words [or names] will never hurt me." That's not true. A broken bone heals faster than a broken spirit. The Bible says "*Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit.*" Your words have a great power to heal or to hurt.

- So how much do you support people with your words?
- Are you an encourager or are you a discourager?
- Do you lift people up or do you put them down?
- Do you give them strokes or pokes?
- Do you nag or do you brag on your children?

If God were to have a contest and said, "I'm going to give you a dollar for every kind word you said this last year. I'm going to take away a dollar for every critical word or negative word you said this last year." Would you be rich or poor? Some of you would be in the hole! When you belittle people, when you put them down, you belittle you are *being little!*

### **B) Not everyone will respond back with kindness when you try to be supportive.**

#### **Illus: boy forgetting his lines.**

I remember reading of a little boy who forgot his lines in a Sunday school play. His mother sat in the front row to help him, and she gestured and formed the words with her lips, but it didn't help the boy, for his mind was blank. Finally, the mother leaned forward, and whispered his cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed with relief, then blurted out the words, "My mother is the light of the world!"

## **3. BE SYMPATHETIC**

- Understanding, concerned, kind, compassionate, caring, considerate, sensitive.

### **A) Honoring people share in the emotions of others.**

#### **Romans 12:15**

"When others are happy, be happy with them. When they're sad, share their sorrows."

#### **Illus: Boys buy plant for mom.**

I think of a story I once read of two small boys who gave their mother a house plant for Mother's Day. They were boys who were a "lot to handle" and they felt sympathy for their mother. They had used their own money to buy it, and to say the least, the mother was thrilled. The oldest boy said, "There was a bouquet that we wanted to buy, but it was too expensive. It was really pretty, and had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace.' We thought that it would be just perfect, since you always are asking for a little peace so you can rest!"

### **To truly show kindness it's not enough to just see their need, you must feel their emotions. You must sympathize with their pain.**

The Bible says this in **Luke 10:33** concerning the Good Samaritan, "*When he saw him, his heart was filled with pity.*"

The Bible tells us "*Weep with those who weep.*" In other words, share their sorrow. Enter into their emotion. Feel what they feel.

How do you do that? How do I increase my ability to be a more sensitive and more sympathetic person?

**If sensitivity begins with your eyes, sympathy begins with your ears.** It's learning to listen. Learning to listen is the secret of genuine sympathy. The better listener you become, the more sympathetic you become. Sometimes kindness is just listening.

**Illus:** \$20.00 to listen. I actually saw an ad this week that said, "I'll listen to anybody speak about anything for 15 minutes for 20 bucks." I bet that guy's making a good living. People are dying to have someone listen to them. That's why they go on these chat rooms. That's why they do these phone calls. They want somebody to listen to them.

### **Sympathy does two things. It meets two of your basic needs:**

- A) The need to be understood and...
- B) The need to have your feelings validated. Both human needs. That you're not a weirdo, you're not crazy, that what you feel is something normal and other people have felt it before.

God often allows problems in your life just to teach you to be sympathetic to others. Some of the things that come into your life, you wonder, "Why is this happening to me?" I'll tell you why it's happening. God sometimes specifically allows certain problems into your life so you can be sympathetic to other people when they go through them and you don't say things like, "Why don't you just get your act together? Why don't you just straighten up? If you'd just change your beliefs or change your life ..." You'll be sympathetic to where they are.

#### **2 Cor. 1:4 (Living Bible)**

"God comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials so that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort that God has given us." So every problem you go through is an opportunity to learn how to be more sympathetic.

## **4. BE STRAIGHTFORWARD**

### **A) Sometimes honor means being candid and frank.**

It means leveling with people, telling them where they're blowing it, where they're making the mistake.

#### **Proverbs 27:6**

"Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy."

#### **Psalms 145:5**

"A good man may rebuke me in kindness."

#### **John 8:31-32** (Sometimes the truth hurts.)

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

#### **Eph 4:25**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

### **Every nowadays everything is politically correct.**

#### **Politically Correct Terms**

- \* Serial-Killer -- Person with difficult-to-meet needs
- \* Dishonest -- Ethically disoriented
- \* Over weight -- Horizontally challenged
- \* Bald -- Follicularly challenged
- \* Can't jump -- you're vertically challenged.
- \* Pregnant -- Parasitically oppressed
- \* Alive -- Temporarily metabolically able
- \* Dead -- Living impaired

- \* Ignorant -- Knowledge-based nonpossessor
- \* Unattractive -- Cosmetically different
- \* Body Odor – You have a Nondiscretionary fragrance

**Have you seen the bumper sticker:** Real friends don't let friends drive drunk. It's true. A genuine friend will say, "You're blowing it. I'm not about to let you do this. You're making the biggest mistake of your life." A real friend doesn't say, "It's none of my business." If you're a friend it is your business. Sometimes the kindest thing you can do is level with the person and tell them exactly what they're doing wrong.

**When you go to a doctor,** do you want him to lie to you or do you want him to be straightforward? Do you want him to say, "You've got to have surgery or you'll die"? Or do you want him to say, "It's no big deal, you might get well on your own. Relax, Think positive"?

**Sometimes the surgeon has to cut you.** And sometimes you have to hurt a person in order to heal a person. Sometimes the kindest thing you can do is just level with people and tell them the truth. It's far less kind to overlook a problem that you know is destroying somebody's life.

## B) Care enough to confront.

That's one of the things I love about my mother in law – she is blunt, but loving!

Care enough to confront that child. That mate, that friend, that employee. Don't let them just die on their own out there. You say, "How do I know when to confront and how do I know when to comfort?" I don't know. You have to evaluate each situation and figure out which is going to bring the most healing. Sometimes comfort will, sometimes confrontation will.

If you're going to be a kind person you need to be sensitive and you need to be supportive and you need to be sympathetic and you need to be straightforward.

### Illus: College boy and mom – pictures.

I remember reading of a college student who had filled the wall of his dorm room with indecent pictures. He, one day, received a surprise, unexpected visit from his mother. She never said a word about those pictures, or gave any indication that she noticed them. But, before she left she hung a picture of Christ in the middle of those other pictures. When she came back to visit, a few months later, she found that the only picture hanging on the wall, was the one she had placed there.

Illus: Older couple, man asks to marry, forgets if she said yes/no. She forgets who asked.

## 5. BE SPONTANEOUS

**A) Don't wait to do a kind act.** When you've got time to do it, do it. Do it now.

Seize the moment to be kind. Don't wait. Don't delay. Don't procrastinate. Do what you can at that very moment.

### **Galatians 6:10**

"As we have the opportunity let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."

Take note of "as we have the opportunity". When should I be kind? Obvious. Whenever you see a need.

We've all done this. Have you ever had someone do something for you that was real nice and thought, "I need to write that person a **thank you note**," but you put it off and put it off and finally it's been so long since they did it and you're embarrassed to write it so you forget it? Or a phone call? Or you move into the neighborhood and you know you need to meet the neighbors, when you first move in or they've just moved in. Two years later, you still haven't met the neighbors and now you're embarrassed.

**Proverbs 3:27-28** (Good News)

*"Never walk away from someone who deserves help. Your hand is God's hand for that person. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now."* Never walk away from somebody who deserves your help.

The world is full of wounded. On the very row you're on, there are wounded people. I wonder how many people in your life you walk around with who are wounded – the walking wounded. They may not be wounded physically, but they're wounded emotionally. They're wounded spiritually. They're wounded relationally. They're wounded financially. And they need your love. They need your kindness. You don't wait for better conditions. You don't say, "I'll call them in a few days." You do it now. When someone loses a loved one, you don't say, "I'll wait a while, and then I'll contact them." When someone you work with gets fired, they lose their job, you don't say "I'll wait a month, and then I'll contact them." When someone has a miscarriage, you don't say, "I'll wait a while, and then I'll contact them." No, you do it now! Spontaneous kindness. Seize the moment.

**Opportunities to show kindness do not last. Seize the moment.**

You must do it now as you have the opportunity. They pass quickly. I guess what I'm saying is give roses while people can smell them. Husbands, a single rose given to your wives now is much more worthwhile than an entire elaborate bouquet at the funeral. It doesn't make much sense then. Give roses while people can smell them.

**B) Do your given' while you're livin' then you'll be knowin' where it's goin'.**

A lot of people say, "When I die, I'm leaving it all to charity... church... the Lord's work." That's fine. But really, do your given' while you're livin' – you get more credit for it then and you get more joy out of it and you know where it's goin'.

When you have the opportunity, be spontaneous in expressing kindness. When it comes to kindness, good intentions don't count. Like horseshoes – close doesn't count. "I've been meaning to do something kind for my wife/husband/parents/that teacher/that worker/that employer/that boss/that secretary.... I've been meaning to." When are you going to do it? "I'm aimin' to." When are you going to pull the trigger? Do it now.

Some say: I'll plan to be spontaneous - tomorrow.

If you don't do it now, it won't happen!

## **Conclusion:**

### **Who can you show honor to this week?**

You look all around you and there are people that are discouraged, people that are hurting and bleeding. You just need to open your eyes.

#### **A) How about at home?**

Is it possible that this week you could just possibly be a little bit kinder to your wife/husband/children? Do an act of kindness. Spend some time with them. How many divorces could have been prevented by kindness? A lot of them could. Just common courtesy being kind to people

#### **B) How about at work?**

How about the new worker at work who's got no orientation, lost? You could show kindness by standing with them, helping them through the next three or four months. Or the guy who's unkind to you at work. You be kind to him. People who are unkind to others, it could be because they've never experienced kindness.

#### **C) How about at school?**

Do you think it's possible you could be kind to that person that nobody else likes? The nerd, the jerk, the outcast, the person that nobody else likes to be around.

#### **D) How about at church?**

Do you speak to people you don't know? You see someone who is obviously lost, new here at LAFCC, a visitor. You give them directions and try to help them out. You sit by somebody you don't know and talk to them, give them a handshake, a hug, a word of encouragement. Remember, people will decide if they're going to come back or not in the first 7 minutes of their visit.

#### **E) How about that friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ?**

The kindest thing you could do with somebody is share the Lord with them. You make a friend for life. Tell them that God loves them. That's the kindest thing you can do. Do you realize that you're the only Bible that some people will ever read? You are a living Bible for many people.

The Christian life is the life of kindness. The Bible tells us in **Titus 3:4** "*Jesus Christ is the kindness of God.*" Jesus is the kindness of God incarnate, in flesh, in person, in a body. If you're ever going to be like Jesus Christ, you've got to learn to be kind. The Bible says in **2 Timothy 2**, "*Husbands, kindness is the mark of spiritual leadership.*" I don't care how many Bible verses you know, if you're not being kind to your wife, kind to your kids, you're missing the boat. When was the last time you washed dishes? The mark of leadership is kindness. The mark of Christlikeness is kindness. Love in action.

The Romans in the Roman Empire used to confuse two Greek words – *Christos* which means Christ, Christian, and the word *chrestos* which means kind. They were always confusing Christians and kindness. I can't think of a better confusion. I can't think of two words that ought to be synonymous. To be a Christian is to be a kind person. That's what it's all about.

Be caught giving honor!

And as you do.... You wait, you watch, you'll see!