

Creating a Culture of Honour in our Relationships

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Lately I have been spending time reading and watching some of Danny Silk's resources around creating a culture of honour in the home, work place and interpersonally with others. It has made me think more and more about the things that I can do personally and professionally to help construct a culture of honour wherever I go.

I thought I might share a couple of thoughts from what I am learning at present in this area and hopefully it will inspire, encourage and challenge you in the way that it has for me.

Firstly, I think it is important to understand that honour is valuing other people regardless of their differences. Honour does not necessarily mean that we agree with everything that a person does or believes. Creating a culture of honour in any environment starts with the personal decision to choose to place honour and value on others, regardless of what they choose to do. Now here is the kicker – honour is choosing to love and respect others, even if they are choosing to behave in a way that is not respectful, loving or in agreement with you.

That is all very easy to say and think and quite challenging to put into practice. Danny expresses that we do not know if there is honour in the relationship until it is tested with a problem or until something goes wrong and that our response in those situations display the level of honour we have. For example, it is all well and good to show honour to a child when they are listening, following your instructions, and speaking nicely to you. It is a completely different story when they are speaking disrespectfully and arguing with you.

It is easy to show honour and respect to a friend when they are being a loyal and supportive friend, but it is more challenging to show honour to a friend when they say something negative about you. When there is honour in a relationship, even if others are not being respectful, we are still able to control the way we choose to respond to what is in front of us. We can choose to speak kind words, stay in control of ourselves and think before we act.

Whenever there is conflict and a confrontation, we often picture people arguing, raising their voices and becoming emotional to express their feelings and convey their perspective. I am sure that we have all witnessed or experienced at some point in our life a conflict where this has happened and things have not been resolved or able to be repaired after this. However, Danny describes the importance of confronting with the goal of connection. When two people discuss their issues or conflict with the intent of becoming closer and working through the concerns, the conversations and approach is very different. When two people honour each other by confronting with the goal to connect, often the content of the discussion is filled with grace and understanding, the way they speak is kind and they are able to hear and take on feedback because the goal stays the same even if the discussion is heated – “that I want to connect with you better and I want to work through this”.

Those are my two main thoughts that I wanted to share, but there are many more concepts in Danny's teaching that have positively helped me personally and professionally to be better at loving others and honouring them. If you are interested in reading or watching more of his teaching, he has developed several different programs, some of which you can borrow from the college library. In addition to this, we also run Danny's Loving Our Kids on Purpose programs several times throughout the year and his Life Academy courses are also available online. I would highly recommend them to anyone who is interested. You are more than welcome to contact our Student Care and Well-being team if you have any questions around the programs and courses or Danny's teaching.

For further information around the Life Academy, please visit <https://loving-on-purpose-life-academy.thinkific.com/>

