

***The Culture of Honor**

1 *We will always pursue and defer to a “Culture of Honor” with one another.* In choosing to do so we emphasize the high value of building, nurturing and protecting our relationships with one another. We acknowledge that everyone has needs for love, value, freedom and respect.

2 *We want to be a community where people can express the freedom of being alive – of becoming their best.* This happens in a place of peace. We are all mutually responsible for creating an environment where freedom and peace can flourish.

3 In a “Culture of Honor”, each person needs to be in tune with what effect they are having upon the environment in the present moment and choose attitudes and actions that bring forth the best in others. *At Radiant Church, we are committed to finding the light of Christ within each believer.*

4 To express honor is accomplished as we promote another person, elevate their status in Christ or to demonstrate value. *We can do that for others since Christ has by His grace done that exact same thing for us; we did not deserve this kindness and were not worthy of it.*

5 Our goal is to be honoring, despite what any other person is saying or doing. When we disagree with someone’s words or deeds we often fail to display honor. *We give ourselves permission to demote or devalue them, which thus makes it easier to dishonor them. We refuse to devalue our relationships based upon momentary disagreements.*

6 Our expression of honor cannot be based on whether the other person is worthy of honor in our eyes. *Their failure does not exempt us from pursuing Christ-likeness. Our expression of honor toward another speaks more about who we are than who the other person is.*

7 Our value for connections with others fosters love and honor and provides strength for leadership. *We want to encourage one another to the call of God in their life and mobilize them for kingdom service.*

8 Self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit. The only person we are called to control is ourselves. *It is not our goal to control other people.*

9 *Our desire is to know and yield to the Father’s work in us, which is to be like Christ in every place and in every circumstance;* No one else can make that choice for us, it is only ours to choose.

10 Our expression of love, forgiveness and honor will remain our choice to demonstrate. We will not relinquish that control to another person or blame them for our failure to operate in these graces. We are responsible for our own choices.

11 *When we demonstrate love, forgiveness or honor, that choice will always help shape us into the image of Christ. The person on the receiving end of these graces we express may also be changed for good. That will be their choice. It is never God’s will that His children be unloving, unforgiving or dishonoring.*

12 Correction will be done in a spirit of gentleness while speaking the truth in love. *There is no real freedom without truth. Truth without love becomes a thorn of offense to everyone who hears it, yet love without truth is deceptive and has no lasting value.*

*At Radiant Church, we are committed to demonstrate a “Culture of Honor” in our community of faith. We acknowledge this is a process and will take ongoing focus and commitment to live the values identified in the “Culture of Honor”. The description of this “Culture of Honor” has been adapted (*in italics*) for Radiant Church from a seminar presented by Danny Silk as he spoke on this topic at Bethel Church in Valparaiso In. in 2010.