



EPISODE GUIDE

LEADING
SECOND

Episode 213

More Than a Month ft. Leading Second Team

To start Pastor Appreciation Month, Brandon is joined by Joseph Kelley (Discovery Church, Oklahoma, OK), Jennifer Martin (NorthRock Church, San Antonio, TX), and Alan Cooper (Soul Church, Norwich, UK), to challenge us to examine our hearts and attitudes towards leadership in the church. The conversation pushes us to consider: How might our churches and ministries thrive if we cultivated a culture of genuine honor?

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH.

Honor is one of the great markers of a healthy team and a healthy church. Honor is **currency**. Do you really want to serve on a team without honor?

THE BENEFITS OF AN HONOR CULTURE.

Honor puts everything in its proper authority. To say that we honor God is to say that we honor His authority. Our pastors and leadership are a part of His will, plan, and purpose for our lives.

It lines us up with His word for the favor and blessings of God. Some of the greatest frustrations in the church stem from a culture that is misaligned with God's principles, scripturally, when it comes to honor.

David had so many opportunities to dishonor Saul. There are so many opportunities for us to dishonor our leaders. **You will never go wrong when you honor the man of God.** That man has to answer for what he has done, but you also have to answer for how you treat him.

In the church, we have to teach what honor means. This month allows us to show our congregations what honoring the man of God looks like.

A CULTURE OF DISHONOR.

Scripture tells us that there were two places Jesus was amazed: one at the centurion's faith and one at the dishonor in His hometown.

The spirit of dishonor is extremely prevalent on social media. The temptation to keep bringing people down is pursued through the need for self-preservation. As long as your platform isn't bigger than mine, I can cheer you on. But once your platform becomes bigger than mine, then the cheering stops.

Dishonor is a disregard for someone's true value. There are moments on teams when there is dishonor because people are not regarded for their true value. Our pastors said yes to a very hard calling, and they are carrying something we will never know.

GOD'S ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY.

In culture today, the belief of my truth over the truth is being elevated. This is anti-authority. We have to deny ourselves to walk in God's authority, because we truly believe that God's way is the best way.

The Biblical model of authority is that Christ is not just our Savior, but Savior and Lord of our lives. **Submission doesn't really become submission until it is a counter desire.** Sometimes it's as simple as laying down my way of arriving at the same destination in order to honor both God and my authority.

Psalms 133: 1-3 (NIV) "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

Not everything that is within your circle of concern is within your circle of influence. (Not everything you care about is something you can do something about.) Allow your circle of influence to catch up with your concern. Build the capacity and relational equity to get invited into the room where you can do something about it.

The greatest marker of a successful team is the ability to disagree in private and unify in public. Appropriate disagreement behind closed doors. **We are all working towards the same goal.** At the end of the day, we want people to find Jesus, have a relationship with Him, and take them and their family to heaven.

THE BENEFITS OF AUTHORITY.

Protection:

Sometimes our pastors walk with people longer than we feel they should. Sometimes that can build a frustration. But God's way is to believe in that person.

Perspective:

It's like being in a traffic jam. All you can see are a few cars ahead of you. But when you use a navigation app, you can see how much traffic there is. You're accessing information from a higher source. When you submit to Godly authority, you get access to a higher perspective.

Honor and humility work hand in hand. You don't appreciate perspective without humility. Humility attributes value to the voice that God's put in your life. You honor and appreciate the perspective that your pastor has.

Maturity:

God uses leaders in our lives to grow us up. But that means we have to go through character school. God is in the process of working and growing you.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE.

The extra mile is not just doing what is in your job description, but it is being willing to do anything. God calls us to go the extra mile.

When you sign up to be in ministry, it is a selfless endeavor. It isn't about me, my gain, and my glory. It's about serving His Kingdom and the church. **It is service.**

Our leaders see something in us, and it is their job to help that become real.

We are all part of one body, and we all have different parts to play. Unity is key. I am a servant leader; nothing is below me.

At the end of the day, we have to trust that God sees and He knows. He is the rewarder. Jesus asked for it, He did it, He modeled it, and He rewards us for it.

HOW TO HONOR YOUR PASTOR.

Stop assuming your pastor feels encouraged. Be specific about how their message spoke to you. Call them. Tell them in person. Write a thank you note.

Pray for them and let them know you are praying for them.

Listen to what they care about. Don't just listen to what they want to do or what they instruct you to do. Listen to their heart and care about what they care about.

Dig Deeper

1. In what ways can submission to Godly authority provide protection and perspective in our lives and ministries?

2. What role does humility play in our ability to honor leadership and receive guidance from those in authority over us?

3. In what ways can we encourage and uplift our pastors beyond Pastor Appreciation Month, recognizing that they may not always feel encouraged?

Additional Resources

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Leading Second Camp:

Leading Second Camp is crafted specifically for church staff, leadership team members, and key volunteers. Leading Second will be having 2 one-day events: November 6, 2025 in Toronto, ON and November 13, 2025 in Red Deer, AB. On February 25-26, 2026, Leading Second will be hosting a two-day conference in San Antonio, TX To learn more, watch past years' messages, and register you and your team, visit leadingsecondcamp.com.