

**TITLE:** Honor One Another  
**TEXT:** Romans 12:10

## I. The Error: We Must Stop Seeking Honor For Ourselves (12:3)

- This attitude is implicit throughout this chapter.
  - If you are using your gifts for others.
  - If you are seeking to serve God...
    - Your own honor is not the priority.
- V3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**
  - If you are thinking more highly of yourself
    - Then you believe that your spiritual gifting is more important than others.
    - While you are busy lifting yourself up, increasing your own value, it devalues the role of others.
- This verse follows hot on from v2:
  - **be not conformed** [to the thinking] **to this world** (12:2)
    - A Worldly mindset throughout Scripture is the kind of thinking that places yourself above others.
      - Thinking that elevates YOURSELF at the expense of others
  - It is not the kind of thinking that is befitting of those who follow Christ:
    - **Phil 2:3-5**
    - What mindset?
      - The mindset of Jesus
      - The mindset of a sacrificial servant..
      - The mindset of (v2) a person who is desiring to live out the will of God in their life.
  - **Later in Romans 12:16**
  - V16 - **Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.**

- The reality of lifting yourself up or ascribing greater value to yourself is rebuked all throughout the Scriptures...
  - When one seeks honor for themselves, or for their actions, it all stems from the same place – pride.
  - Example: Haman in the book of Esther
    - **Error: When we lift ourselves up, it is always at the expenses of honoring God and others.**
    - **Self-seeking honor should not be found within the body of this church.**

## II. The Antidote: We Must Honor God Above All (12:1)

*Look how this chapter begins...*

*v. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service...*

Rightfully honoring others, begins with rightfully honoring God.

- Here Paul says our “reasonable service” is to present our lives as a sacrifice towards God...
  - To honor God with how we live – in sacrifice, in holiness, in an acceptable way onto God...
- Here is the effect of this antidote to our desire for personal honor...
  - When we honor God above EVEN OURSELVES it strips away our pride and moves us to a place of humility.
- When we realize that Jesus is the name above all names,
  - The king of all Kings
  - The Lord of all Lords
    - We’re left with two options.
      - Either we lift ourselves up in pride against the creator of all things.
      - Or we bow before Him in humility.

If you’d like a further study on this, I encourage you to go to the book of 1-2 Samuel and trace through the theme of honoring God through the book...

- What you see over and over again is that those who honor God will be honored by God.

- And those who do not honor God will be brought low.
  - 1 Sam 2:27-28
  - 1 Sam 2:29-30
- Here's the issue...
  - When we move our eyes away from honoring God first and foremost...
    - We don't gravitate towards honoring others...
    - We default back to seeking honor for ourselves instead.
- We need to be careful;
  - Because "truly honoring God above all" and being "around the things of God" can easily overlap.
  - Jesus condemns this attitude and mindset in the Pharisees:
    - Matt 23:5-7
    - Matt 15:7-8a
    - John 5:22-23

### **III. The Right Approach: We Must Honor One Another In Love (12:10)**

*v. 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;*

- Interesting: in this phrase - love is the key.
- You see - when we have true and genuine love for one another,
  - It is as if we are loving a member of our own family...
  - It leads to having kind affections towards one another...
    - 1 Pet 4:8
    - 1 John 3:14

*v. 12:10 "in honour preferring one another;"*

- **What the NT outlines is that the church is a place of unusual honor...**
  - Unusual in the fact that the honor is not bestowed upon others for their position or prestige, but on the basis of devotion to God and to one another.
    - 1 Tim 5:17
    - Heb 13:4
    - 1 Pet 3:7
    - Eph 6:2

- 1 Tim 6:1
- 1 Timothy 5:3
- Perhaps the most profound outlining of this is...
  - 1 Cor 12:20-26

Paul makes it clear, both here and elsewhere, that each member is to honor one another...

- **Notice the word “preferring”**
  - What does this mean?
  - The idea is simply this – that **we would prefer to honor one another above receiving honor for ourselves.**

Another beautiful picture of this in the OT: Think about David and Jonathan.

- No greater picture of two unrelated men having a brotherly love towards one another.
- But if either of these men appealed to their own honor, it could have been disastrous...
- But because Jonathan loved David as a brother...
  - And when he realized that David was God’s appointed King...
    - He didn’t rebel
    - He didn’t fight him.
    - **He honored him.**
- **How can we get this right this morning?**
  - Stop seeking honor for yourself.
  - Prioritize honoring Jesus Christ.
  - Demonstrate your honor to One another in love.