

Cultivating Covenant Community
A Study of the One-Another Commands of Scripture

Lesson 11: Honor One Another

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 2:17

1. What does it mean to honor one another?

- a. Stuart Scott: “What does it mean to honor? Honor means to give special weight or value to the other person. So outdoing one another in showing honor means giving the other person weighty, serious consideration in all things.”
 - i. “Notice that the command [in Romans 12:10] is to outdo, not to give honor. Honor is the manner in which one is to outdo. We are to praise, recognize, and show special attention to the other person more than we would receive from him or her. We must ‘outdo’ the other person.”
- b. WLC 131- What are the duties of equals?
 - i. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each other’s gifts and advancement, as their own.
- c. Showing honor to others is the loving fulfillment of God’s law.
 - i. Consider the second table of God’s law.
 1. 5th commandment- honor your authorities.
 2. 6th commandment- honor your neighbor’s life and wellbeing.
 3. 7th commandment- honor your neighbor’s marriage (cf. Hebrews 13:4).
 4. 8th commandment- honor your neighbor’s possessions.
 5. 9th commandment- honor your neighbor’s reputation.
 6. 10th commandment- honor your neighbor’s right to have something you don’t.

2. Whom are we called to honor?

- a. In a general sense, we are called to honor all kinds of people, not simply believers.
 - i. 1 Peter 2:17: “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”
- b. We are commanded to honor our parents in the 5th commandment (Exodus 20:12). In principle, this includes all our superiors (government leaders in Romans 13, church leaders in Hebrews 13:17, etc.).
- c. We are called to honor those who are weak and vulnerable.
 - i. Husbands are called to honor their wives because they are the “weaker vessel”- 1 Peter 3:7
 - ii. Widows- 1 Timothy 5:3
 - iii. The elderly- Leviticus 19:32
 - iv. The poor- Proverbs 14:31
- d. The righteous man honors those who fear the Lord (Psalm 15:4).
- e. We should honor those who risk their lives for the gospel (Philippians 2:25-30).
- f. **Is there anyone we are not called to honor?**

- i. Jesus warns us about seeking honor for ourselves (Matthew 23:5-7; Luke 14:7-11).
- ii. Romans 13:7 seems to imply that honor and respect are not owed to some. Psalm 15:4 states that a righteous man despises a vile person. God cautions us about honoring fools (Proverbs 26:1, 8).
 - 1. This is not a license to demean another human being made in God's image, but it forbids actions that would approve and reward sin.

3. What does it look like to honor one another?

- a. Treat others with respect. Speak respectfully to others. Ephesians 4:29
 - i. Remember that you can disrespect others with your demeanor or gestures! Proverbs 30:17.
- b. Count others more significant than yourself. Hold others in high esteem. Philippians 2:3-4
- c. Listen to others and value their input.
 - i. Does another believer have an area of expertise? Consider how it might honor them to ask for their perspective.
- d. Recognize the accomplishments of others. Like Paul did for Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25-30.
- e. Preserve and defend the good name of others. Honor their reputation. Exodus 20:16. Proverbs 22:1.
- f. Consider the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of others and respect them.
- g. Avoid quarreling with others. Proverbs 20:3: "It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling."
- h. Generously give to those in need. Proverbs 14:31: "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."
- i. Rejoice when another member of the body is honored. 1 Corinthians 12:26.
- j. Stuart Scott: "Are you consciously seeking to prefer others over yourself? For example, when you are in a conversation, do you dominate the conversation? Is the topic often about you? If so, you are not outdoing the other person in showing honor. Think about the last conversation you had with another believer. How could you have thought more and cared more about the other person?"
 - i. "List one believer you can prefer with honor. How can you make the other person 'weigh heavy' in your life this week? How can you value that person? List three specific ways you can do this and be specific, stating both how and when you will do it."