

Lesson 10 — They Honored Each Other

What does it mean to outdo one another in honor?

Sunday, August 23, 2026 Name: _____

Let love be without _____. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the _____ in _____ one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

— Romans 12:9–13 (CSB)

1. THE SETTING IN ROMANS 12

- Romans 12:1 turns on a single word: “_____.” Eleven chapters of gospel stand behind it.
- What Paul asks for: bodies presented as a _____, and minds that are _____.
- Verse 9 opens a cluster of short _____ commands. Honor is one beat in that sequence.

2. THE ROMAN WORLD PAUL WAS WRITING IN

- Roman society ran on a _____-client system. Honor (*timē*) was the public weight of a name in the eyes of the city.
- That prize was _____. A man climbed by stepping on another, and _____ was the tax assessed against the loser.
- Into that world Paul writes a verb of _____ and points it _____.

3. THE VERB THAT TELLS THE STORY

- *proēgoumenoi*, from *proēgeomai*, literally means “to _____.”
- ESV: “_____ one another in showing honor.” CSB: “Take the _____ in honoring one another.”
- Whoever goes first in honor has already judged the other person _____.
- *philadelphia* = _____ love. *philostorgos* = _____, tenderly attached.
- The body is not honoring strangers. The body is honoring _____.

4. THE CONTEST WITH THE RULES REVERSED

- Paul keeps the competitive image and reverses the _____. The object is to lift the other man up.
- Rome's honor budget was finite. The church's honor budget is _____, because it is funded by _____.
- Honor given is honor _____.

5. WHAT HONOR LOOKS LIKE ON THE GROUND

- Honor is not _____ (honor without truth), and not _____ (form without substance).
- It _____ a gift in front of the room. It _____ the unseen worker. It _____ at the door, at the table, and at the microphone. It _____ to diminish in private what it praises in public.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:23–25. What does the body do with the members it thinks less honorable?

- Honor in the body is _____. It moves toward whoever is being _____.

6. WHEN HONOR GOES MISSING

- The absence of honor is rarely loud. Name two of the quiet signs:

- Love without honor turns into the _____ Paul warned against in verse 9.

7. THE ONE WHO TOOK THE LEAD

- Romans 5:8 — “But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.”
- Philippians 2:9–11 — the honor he wears now was not seized. It was _____ by the Father after the _____.
- The order Paul keeps writing: _____ first, then _____.

8. LOOKING TO JESUS — WHOM DID HE HONOR, AND HOW?

John 4:7–26	
Mark 10:46–52	
Mark 14:6	
John 13:3–15	
Luke 23:43	
Matthew 28:1–10	

9. FOR DISCUSSION

1. Romans 12:10 sits inside a string of short love commands. What changes in how we read the honor command when we keep its neighbors in view, especially “let love be without hypocrisy” just before it?
2. The Greek verb carries both senses at once: going first, and esteeming more highly. Which of the two is harder for you in practice, and what does that suggest about where honor most needs to grow in you?
3. Rome treated honor as finite, won by stepping on someone else. Paul writes the church into a competition that gives honor away. Where do you still feel the old math at work inside the body?
4. Honor in Paul's usage is public, concrete, and costly. Think of a specific time someone honored you that way. What did it produce in you?
5. The Lord took the lead in honor toward us when we deserved none of it. How does keeping that picture in view shape the way you walk into the building next Sunday?

TAKE THE LEAD THIS WEEK. Go first. One name: _____ What honor will you give, and where will it be seen?

NOTES