
Sermon Notes

September 25, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Honor One Another

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Principles for Life

- ❖ Romans 12:9-21, a bulleted list of 17-22 ingredients that get stirred together within us so we will be more like Jesus
- ❖ How does Jesus' presence in our lives show up and shine through the way we act toward and treat one another?
- ❖ Three questions about showing honor to one another:
 - what does it mean to show honor to each other?
 - why does God command this of us?
 - what does it look like when we do it?

What Does it Mean?

- ❖ To honor someone is to assign value to that person
- ❖ We honor one another through both words AND deeds

- ❖ We honor one another because each of us is created in the image of God
 - sin dulls and tarnishes God's image in us
 - yet, no matter how depraved, blind, sensual, proud, or rebellious we are, we continue to carry the image of God
- ❖ Romans 12:10 makes a distinction between loving one another and honoring one another
 - loving one another with brotherly affection = the love that binds a close-knit family together (a comfortable, "at-homeness" with one another)
 - honoring one another = reacting to someone based on their inherent value
 - even when others do not behave or respond in worthy ways, we continue to recognize their worth
 - showing honor to one another is not conditioned by whether or not someone else is behaving in an honorable way
- ❖ Showing honor is not flattery, it is genuine appreciation
- ❖ ***Outdo one another in showing honor***
 - it's a contest!
 - love to show honor to one another more than you love being honored by one another
- ❖ James 2:1-6

Why is This Important?

- ❖ This is of great importance because it honors God and brings glory to Him
 - showing honor to one another makes God look good in front of one another and in front of those who are outside of God's family
 - doing this shows the reality of our new nature in Christ
- ❖ We show affection and honor to one another because we belong to the same family
- ❖ Honoring one another springs from our awareness of how incredibly honored we are to have God's nature living in us
- ❖ Honoring one another brings glory to Jesus because He is the One who enables us to live in this way (Matt 5:16)

How Do We Do This?

- ❖ Begin by recognizing that this is commanded, not suggested!
- ❖ Realizing our need for divine enablement naturally leads us to confess our total inability to do this on our own
- ❖ Look to and follow Jesus' example (Philippians 2:3-6)
 - keep your mind off of yourself and on others
 - watch out for "the green-eyed monster"!

- ❖ Continually remind yourself that no matter how imperfect you think your brothers and sisters in Christ are, we all have the same Father
 - Jesus died for them as much as He died for you
 - glorify Jesus' work on the cross by being a conduit to them through which His grace flows
 - look for evidence of God's grace in their lives
- ❖ "Never forget what it was like to be lost."
- ❖ Abbey D'Agostino "I think the qualities that people see [in me] as heroic and altruistic come from God. I'm glad he's chosen me to be an instrument of that and react that way in that moment."

Personal Reflection

1. How does Jesus' presence in your life show up and shine through the way you act toward and treat others?
2. Do you tend to look at or overlook the fact that everyone you meet is a person created in the image of God? How will doing this more regularly affect your ability to show honor to them?
3. Does envy or jealousy interfere with your ability to show honor to others? Why is that? What practical suggestions from this message will you make use of to help you grow beyond this?
4. How does recognizing that your fellow believers have the same Father and that you will spend eternity with them affect your ability to show honor to them?