

Remnant Life Church
September 14, 2014

**“Lessons by Paul:
The Building Blocks of Family Fellowship -
Part 2”**

Romans 12:10

V 10b - *Honor one another above yourselves*

- Definition - Respect given to someone admired; good reputation; high moral standards of behavior
- Over 160 times in the Bible we read the word “honor”
 - The first time is in **Gen. 30:20** when Jacob’s wife Leah gives birth to a son
 - **Ex. 20:12** God gives Moses this as one of the 10 commandments
 - Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you
 - It is the only commandment with a promise
- Simply stated - to honor means to be willing to let someone else have the credit
- But nothing in our culture today supports this important building block of relationship, this primary aspect of love
 - It is one reason why so few things endure – jobs, relationships, marriages, even churches
 - Partly due to the fact that we are now being told that we must love ourselves first before we can love someone else – this is simply not true
 - Paul is stating in **Romans 12** that love is built and grows when we defer to others in humility
 - Jesus preached a message of self-less love demonstrating it to the very end when He washed His disciples feet at the last supper – (**John 13**)
 - Looking out for number one, for many, is not just a saying but a guideline for how they live their lives
 - But this is in completely contrary to how we are taught that a follower of Jesus should live
- In addition these words, to honor one another, are truly family building words
 - When a *husband and wife desire to honor* one another they are building a marriage of strength and intimacy that withstands the difficult times
 - When *parents honor their children* they are instilling in them a healthy understanding of relationships built on love and that they are accepted, secure, and unique.
 - When *children honor their parents* they position themselves to learn, grow and receive guidance to put and keep them on the right path

- When we *honor our friends* and others in our lives we are not only sowing the seeds of peace wherever we are but we are giving honor to God through what we do and how we live our lives
- Honor, like love, must be sincere
 - Jesus quotes from the book of Isaiah when dealing with the Pharisees
 - **Matt. 15:8** - "*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*"
 - False honor is almost always given with an agenda to benefit the one being untrue
- We see true honor demonstrated beautifully by Abraham and his relationship with Lot
 - **Gen. 13: 1-9** – **READ**
 - In the culture of that day age was very important and carried with it respect and honor – not like today
 - The oldest man of the family was always the leader, the one who made the decisions and the one the others looked to for wisdom and guidance
 - Here Abraham honors Lot by deferring to him to choose where he would want to live with Abraham taking what was left over
 - This humble man demonstrates what it is to honor someone even when you may not get the best
- Contrary to that is a perfect example of how the world often misses that same opportunity...
- It was 5 years ago that the NBA's Class of 2009 was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. There were several others who were honored that night but it was particularly noteworthy the great differences in what was said by 2 of the all-time greats. After a very brief, perfunctory word of thanks to a scarce few, perhaps the greatest player to ever play the game, Michael Jordan's acceptance speech quickly dissolved into an uncomfortable, bitter, and childish goading of the people around him. And it was not only what he said but the fact that he had gone to the expense and trouble of having Leroy Smith flown in for the occasion. Smith, a classmate of Jordan's, was the player their high school coach had kept on the team instead of Jordan who was famously cut from the varsity his sophomore year. He did all of this just so he could tell his former coach on national television, nearly 30 years later, that he had blown it with that decision. That was his focus on that night. On the other hand, David Robinson began by giving personal and loving words to each of his three sons, telling them how much he loved and treasured them. On the night he was receiving the highest honor in sports he turned it into a father/son moment that his boys will never forget. He spoke to each son by name, acknowledging their individual gifts, and his unique relationship with each of them. He then spoke lovingly to his wife, honoring her publicly for all the time he had to be gone and all she had done in raising their children while supporting him. Then he

took the time to honor those who were there to support him. He called George Gervin “the original Mr. San Antonio” and former Spurs coach Larry Brown a “basketball genius.” He called former teammate Avery Johnson the spiritual force behind the Spurs and said these words of honor of Tim Duncan calling him: “The greatest power forward to ever play the game.” David Robinson, a committed born-again believer, knows how to honor God and others as more important than himself.

- The word honor means literally “heavy weight”
 - To honor someone would be to measure his or her value on a scale and conclude that it is “heavy.”
 - On the other hand, to “dishonor” means to treat someone as if they were “light or insignificant.”
 - David Robinson honored; Michael Jordan dishonored

- **THE KEY** - Three times in the book of **Proverbs** (15:33; 18:12; 22:4) we are told that humility will and must precede honor
 - Abraham humbled himself to Lot in **Gen. 13**
 - At the end of the chapter God tells him that he and his offspring will inherit all the land he could see (**vv 14-17**)
 - In chapter **15**, after Abraham rescues and saves Lot following the first war, God makes his covenant with him
 - All this came after Abraham humbled himself