



HONOR ONE ANOTHER: WEEK 13

We have another great week ahead, ladies! We'll be talking about what it means to honor one another. Just a reminder that the reason we are called to actively focus on the **One Others** in Scripture, is because, like Paul said, "We are members of one another" (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25). We are one body, one building, in Him. We affect one another, both positively and negatively. We are working together to build the Kingdom of God. We are on the same team! I saw a movie last night called "The Boys in The Boat" and it was such a great example of how an 8-man crew team needed to become "one" to win. No one can be in it for themselves, no one takes preference over another. We all do our part to make it work. That, ladies, is the essence of what it means to honor one another. And we can't do this unless we are in community with one another. Scott Hubbard wrote, "The one-anothers do not exhaust our obligations to other Christians, but together they offer a brilliant picture of life together under the lordship of Christ. And not only the lordship of Christ, but also the pattern of Christ." (Editor for *Desiring God*)

For our memory verse, I'd love it if we used the ESV version of Romans 12:10 which says, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Wow, that's a good one. The word "outdo" knocks the importance of this one out of the park. The word honor means "to demonstrate high respect or great esteem to someone."

1. Read Romans 12:10 in various versions. What are some of the other words used besides "outdo"?

2. Before we look up anything else, in your own words, what do you think Paul is trying to communicate to his readers? How do we outdo one another in showing honor?

3. Since I brought up being a team player in the introduction, what would happen if each member of the crew team, or any team sport, was bent on competing with one another rather than working together and honoring each other? Can you draw a comparison to the body of Christ?

Our human nature seems to like to compete with others, doesn't it? Whether it's in how successful we are, how well behaved our kids are, how great their grades are, how many friends we have on social media, or even the importance of our spiritual gifts, we like to compare. Which causes competition, which can lead to envy and jealousy.

4. Read Galatians 5:26, Titus 3:3, 1 Cor. 3:3, 1 Cor. 13:4, James 3:16, and Proverbs 14:30. What do these verses say about envying one another?

5. Read Philippians 2:1-8, Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 10:24, and Romans 13:8-14. What's the key in honoring others? Is it possible to truly honor someone if we put ourselves first? Write your thoughts.

6. In what ways can we honor someone? What does that practically look like? Give examples.

7. Here's some food for thought. Who are we called to honor in these verses:
 - A. Exodus 20:12 (Are you doing this?)

 - B. Romans 13:1-7 (How do we do this?)

 - C. Leviticus 19:32 (What does this look like?)

 - D. 1 Timothy 5:17 (What does this mean?)

 - E. 1 Peter 2:17 (This is a big one)

8. What if someone doesn't "deserve" honor? What do we do then?

Don McMinn wrote, "We should honor people because of the great value they have as human beings. This is a recurring theme throughout the entire study of the one another. We are to love others simply because they are objects of God's love, created in His image."

9. Is there someone who you struggle with “honoring” or showing respect? Why? What can, or should, you do about it? How can you seek to better practice this one another?
10. How does honoring all people honor God? (Can you give verses to support this?)
11. What does it mean to honor (or respect) someone’s gifts and talents?
12. How does respecting someone’s time honor them? If you don’t, how does it express dishonor?
13. How do these verses relate to honoring each other? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 14:19, Colossians 3:16, and Romans 15:2. What are some other “one anothers” that work together with honoring?

14. How exactly does “building up one another” show them honor?

15. Explain some of the challenges of honoring one another in the way Scripture commands.

In sports, we like to win. I know I did. Still do. I can make everything a contest if I let myself. But the way of Christ is so contrary to this. Our role in honoring others is to help others be successful, to remind them how important they are, how valuable they are, and how worthy of love they are. It’s about being happy when they succeed, rather than allowing ourselves to be jealous or even angry that something good happened to someone else. It’s letting others be in the spotlight and taking a step back.

16. Do you struggle with this? It’s ok, be honest. (I think we all do in some respect.) What part is challenging for you?

17. Is there someone in your life that you always feel you are competing with? How does this one another challenge you to overcome it?

- 18.** I read an interesting thought. “One of the basic principles of the One Another is that they are best given and not taken. When we demand to be honored, comforted, or encouraged, we will not be satisfied. Rather, we must take the initiative to GIVE the one another to others.” Write your thoughts. Have you ever tried to “demand” respect and it backfired? (This doesn’t mean to not have honest conversation about your feelings, but it’s speaking more generally.)
- 19.** How does actually listening to someone honor them? What about asking others about their opinions, etc.? Why?
- 20.** How can showing respect to someone about things that are important to them show them honor? Can you give an example?
- 21.** How can preferring someone and honoring them above ourselves make a significant impact on their life? What about the impact within the body of Christ? What about the impact on those outside of the Church?

22. When we honor each other as we are called to, how does it make the body Christ function as it should? How does it foster unity?

23. Is there someone you know who could use some affirmation in their life? Can you commit to going out of your way this week to show them honor? Pray and ask the Lord to show you ways to do that.

24. How can you put this one another in practice in your home? How about at your work or in your neighborhood? Be specific.

I'm going to write a few excuses to "NOT" show someone honor and maybe we will recognize them when they rear their ugly heads in our own lives.

- A. Honoring them may take away the attention and honor I deserve.
- B. I'm so focused on me, I'm unable to focus on you.
- C. What if I honor you in an area in which we are both involved, and it turns out that you're better than I am?
- D. If I honor someone else's strengths, I may expose my own inadequacies.
- E. If I honor other people, who will honor me?

- 25.** What was your biggest “take-away” from this lesson? What are some things you need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with? How can you begin showing honor and respect to everyone, like Peter said in 1 Peter 2:17?

See you next week. I can't wait to see what happens this week when you intentionally seek to outdo others in showing honor!