

“Building up Honor”

God wants us to honor our fellow brother and sisters in Christ.

I. Be kind to one another.

Ephesians 4:32 *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

A. Definitions of Kind – To be pleasantly useful for people; gentle rather than harsh.

B. Why would Paul have to say that to Christians?

1. Paul is teaching that we should no longer live like Gentiles: **(v17-19)**
2. Paul commands that we lay aside the old self: **(v22-24)**
“which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and put on the new self, which is in the likeness of God.”

C. Understand: Kindness is the distinguishing mark of spiritual renewal. *(Ephesians 4:17,22-24)*

1. **The need for Kindness** – it is most needed when people are hurting, stressed, or vulnerable.

II. Be devoted to one another.

Romans 12:10 *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;”*

A. Devoted is an adjective describing how we are to love one another.

1. **What does “Devoted” mean?** – from the word **φιλόστοργος**
 - a. **Filos** = brotherly, friendly, kindly; and **Storgos** = affection.
 - b. To have “kindly affectioned” of the reciprocal kind between parents and children.
2. **We are to have a brotherly devotion in our love for one another.**

- a. It can’t be temporary, situational, or capricious.
- b. Our love needs to work in the familial arena, for we are bound to together. Not by blood, but by something eternal and permanent, the same Spirit of Christ in our soul.

3. Jesus introduced the new reality of a spiritual family that transcends all earthly relationships - Matthew 12:49–50 —
“And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ “For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother”

III. Give preference to one another.

Romans 12:10 *“... give preference to one another in honor;”*

A. Put others before yourself as a form of honor.

1. Preference - **προηγέομαι** – to put others before yourself so as to show them honor.
2. Continually giving preference to others so as to honor them.

B. Giving preference requires a self-decreasing attitude.

1. **John the Baptist said**, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*
2. **Jesus said** that if we humble ourselves then that allows others to honor us - **Luke 14:10–11**
 - a. **Luke 14:10–11** — ¹⁰ *“But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. ¹¹ “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*
3. **Application:** Find ways to honor people on Sundays:

THINK, PRAY AND OBEY:

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