

PRACTICING A ONE ANOTHER CULTURE

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: Honor One Another

Date preached: September 20, 2026

Opening prayer: Father, we pray that you would strengthen us with power through your Spirit in our inner being, that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. Root us and establish us in your love, and grant us your power, together with all your people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, to know this love that surpasses knowledge, to be transformed by this love and be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Opening question: From last week's study, were you motivated to show the love of Christ to someone who was lonely, hurting or at the margins? If so, could you share how that experience impacted you and person to whom you showed love?

Sermon Focus: The sermon this week focused on honoring one another. It explored how the gospel challenges the cultural norms in Rome of honor and shame and challenges our own cultural norms of fame/shame and guilt/innocence. As Christians, our call to honor is rooted in the Imago Dei, our belief that all humans are created in the image of God and therefore worthy of honor. Dishonor seeks to de-humanize both the projector and the recipient of dishonor. Jesus breaks the shame of dishonor and transforms us to be people who lead the way in showing honor and living an honorable life.

Sermon Question:

- What part of the sermon has stayed with you since Sunday?
OR What challenged, encouraged, or surprised you in the sermon?

Scripture reading: Romans 12:10

Optional expanded reading: Romans 12 {entire chapter}; Psalm 133:1; I Peter 1:22-25

Scripture Context: Romans, the apostle Paul's letter to Christians in Rome, is considered by many scholars to be Paul's greatest letter. Some go as far as to claim that Romans is the most influential letter in the history of the world. The most central pillars of Reformed theology – that salvation is through Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone – are drawn directly from Romans, though they are amply supported in other scripture. In the first eleven chapters of Romans, Paul lays out an eloquent apologetic (argument) that one is saved by grace, not by following the God's law or by good works. Paul clearly establishes that no one, including Paul himself, has been able to follow God's law perfectly. Therefore, all of humanity would be under God's condemnation were it not for God's sovereign choice to send his only Son, Jesus Christ, to

take on flesh and die a sinner's death to obtain for us what we could not obtain for ourselves – reconciliation with God. In Chapter 12, Paul turns from the 'what' of salvation to the 'now what' of Christian life by urging Christians to 'offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.' (Romans 12:1) In the succeeding verses, which include this week's sermon passage, Paul gives practical advice on what being a living sacrifice looks like.

Word in focus: Honor – (Gk: τιμή) tee-MEE – To value, esteem or show respect. Derived from the ancient Greek word τιω which means value or price. To honor is to convey value upon, to elevate, or to esteem another person. It is important to consider that the biblical meaning of honor includes the concept of cost. Honor without cost is empty of any value to either the giver or receiver. Flattery or superficial compliments are both untrue and deceptive. Neither untruth nor deception are practices believers want to be associated with. To get a better understanding of this word, look at the way Jesus uses it in Matthew 15:5-7, John 5:23 and John 12:26.

Questions:

1. Think of people who have great honor or value in our culture. What qualities do they have that leads people to honor them? How do these qualities compare with the ones Paul speaks of in Romans 12? How is biblical honor different from simply being polite, respectful, or admiring someone?
2. Where do you see the fame/shame or innocence/guilt dynamics in our culture? How can these ways of viewing people lead us toward either elevating or dehumanizing others?
3. Think of a time when you experienced dishonor or felt dehumanized. What did that experience do in you, and what might it look like to bring that hurt to Jesus rather than allowing it to shape how you treat others?
4. What does it practically mean to see the *Imago Dei* (image of God) in someone you disagree with? Where might God be inviting you to distinguish between disagreement with someone and dishonoring them?
5. Paul calls the church to "outdo one another in showing honor." Who is someone you might easily overlook, dismiss, or take for granted? What could seeing, speaking well of, or making space for that person look like this week?

Sharing life together: What should your group know about your life right now? How can we pray for one another?

Closing prayer: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.