

ROMANS TWELVE



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Sincere love in the family of God

“Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves”

VERSE 10 · NIV

THE PROBLEM

The Crisis of Modern Community

| Hyper-connected world

We live in the most connected era in human history. Through smartphones and social platforms, we have instant access to thousands of global contacts and online interest groups at any second.

| Deep & pervasive loneliness

Despite endless tools for connection, we face an epidemic of isolation. We have thousands of followers, yet very few deep devotional relationships or friends we could call at 3:00 AM in a crisis.

The Consumer Mindset

Economic mindset

Modern culture trains us to view relationships transactionally, asking: "What is the return on investment for my time?"

Fragile commitments

The moment a relationship or church becomes difficult, demanding, or inconvenient, our default response is to exit.

Self-focused isolation

Pursuing self-gratification over devotional community leads ultimately to deep personal isolation.

Devotion to ourselves above all has not met our needs but left us isolated with our needs unmet

THE PROPOSITION

We must love sincerely—being devoted to one another like a family and racing to honor one another above ourselves.

And it's only possible because of the Gospel

POINT ONE

Devote yourselves to the family of God

τῇ φιλαδελφία εἰς ἀλλήλους φιλόστοργοι

Be devoted to one another with a familial devotion.

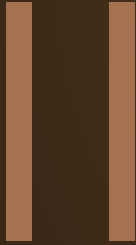
Philadelphia – Brotherly love

Philostorgos – Familial devotion

In the ancient Roman world, family (patria) was everything. You sacrificed for your biological family; everyone outside was a potential competitor or threat.

Perhaps learning to love difficult people isn't a distraction *from* your spiritual growth—perhaps it *is* your spiritual growth

POINT TWO



Honor one another

Pride is fundamentally competitive, striving to be honored above others.

The Church is called to be competitive as well, but in striving to honor others.

Proēgoumenoi carries the picture of taking the lead, going ahead, or engaging in a holy competition to defer to others.

“Pride gets no pleasure out of merely having something—it only gets pleasure out of having more of it than the person standing next to you.

C.S. LEWIS

APPLICATION

How to live out Kingdom honor

I Dismantle your mental scorecards

Stop viewing others as competitors to outrank and start seeing them as brothers and sisters to love. Move from self-preservation to genuine celebration.

II Practice radical, and specific, honor

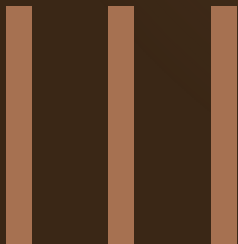
Praise publicly; criticize privately. Share the credit in success and bear the weight in failure. Name the grace of God in others specifically.

THE IMPOSSIBLE COMMAND

If you treat the command as merely moral advice—a checklist of "be nicer and honor people more"—it will lead to either hypocrisy (pretending to love people you actually resent) or burnout (exhaustion from forced selflessness).

You need to look to the ultimate act of honor

POINT THREE



Sincere love is only possible through the Gospel

The Gospel provides healing for the ego, enabling the sincere love Paul calls us to show in both familial devotion to one another and honoring each other before ourselves.

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8

So think about
what Jesus did

THE CONCLUSION

When a fractured society sees rich and poor, young and old, people of differing racial backgrounds and political persuasions eagerly outdoing one another in love and honor, they are forced to ask: "What power lives among those people?"

Look to the Cross, behold the One who honored you at the cost of His life, and go into the world to love one another with that same devotion.

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DEVOTION AND HONOR