

Romans 12:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 | Honour and Encourage One Another

Getting Going

1. Share a time you were honoured. Why did it happen? What was it like?

Review

1. We are called to love like God does (unconditionally, to all people). Why might this be difficult for us to do without first receiving unconditional love from God and others?

Digging Deeper

1. Pastor Travis described honour as raising the value of a person or group in the eyes of others. Take some time to read through a few passages intentionally looking for the ways that honour and shame were being practiced. What stands out when you read in this way? Why do you think honour is so important in the biblical narrative?
 - a. 2 Samuel 11
 - b. Luke 15:11-32
 - c. Luke 23:26-43
2. In a culture that does not value honour like the cultures of the bible, is there still worth prioritizing honouring one another? Why or why not? What might be the worth that honouring others brings?
3. Scripture is full of encouragement, which is coming alongside, supporting, giving strength, as well as building up, or increasing value (e.g. Josh. 1:1-9, Isa 41:10, Mat 11:28, John 14:1-31, Rom 8:37). Why do you think encouragement is such an important theme of scripture? Is it important to you? Why or why not?
4. Do you equate honouring others and encouraging others as an expression of love? Why or why not?

Practical Preparation:

1. Honour and encouragement are very similar in that they are both seeking to build someone up; however the target audience is different. Honour is raising one's status by influencing others, whereas encouragement is directed at the individual. Which of these is easier for you? Which has been more edifying in your own life?
2. We are called to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Honouring and encouraging them is a direct expression of this love. Would the way you speak and act towards others be characterized by honour and encouragement? What would have to change so that it would?
3. Are there people in your life that need encouragement? How might you show the love of Christ to them and encourage them this week?

Parting Prayer

1. Spend time in prayer asking for God to love us by receiving His encouragement. Then pray that we might be able to pour out that encouragement to others that they may experience His love.

Optional Extra Question - Share one of times you saw words of encouragement to bless someone?