

## HONOR

-Ryan Parsons-

Somewhere in the pit of my memory, I remember coaching a soccer team comprised of unruly 1st graders. With no help, I was in pretty deep, and the kids were bent on testing my religion. Fast forward a few years. As I looked over the court a few nights ago, it became very clear...the coach had his hands full. In the pre-season meeting, he casually mentioned that he didn't have anyone to assist him. I'm not sure if it was pity, but after watching the first practice, I walked over and volunteered to be an assistant.

What happens when you get a bunch of 3rd - 4th graders with little to no experience together to play basketball? Chaos! They naturally hog the ball, viciously foul one another trying to gain control of that bouncy round thing, and ignore the open teammate waving their arms like they are on fire. It's not really surprising. They are kids. However, it is pretty humorous to watch.

To my surprise, the mid-practice devotional was about honor. Coach read Romans 12:10 to the kids and began to discuss the importance of honor. They jumped right into the conversation and had much to share about their experiences. It was an excellent teachable moment.

Elementary division basketball isn't that much different than every day life. Even adults often feel the temptation to be selfish and to make sure they get what they feel entitled to. Toxic behaviors emerge, and people get hurt. However, scripture tells us this kind of behavior doesn't have any place among God's people. Rather, followers of Christ are to show honor to others.

Wait a second. What does honor even mean? In the original language, honor means to place value in something. In this case, it means to value others above yourself. This was explained excellently in Jamie's devotional thoughts at Welty this past Sunday as we looked at Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan.

Where are we to show honor? Here are a few examples:

Family - Ephesians 6:1-3, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

Church - Romans 12:10 (NIV), *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Leadership - 1 Timothy 5:17, *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*

All age groups and Widows - 1 Timothy 5:1-3, *Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. Honor widows who are truly widows.*

Community - 1 Peter 2:17, *Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

As we live as a body and walk among our community, may our actions always be driven by honor. And most of all, may Christ be honored in all we do!

1 Peter 3:15, *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*