

HONOR WHERE IT IS DUE

In a world where we idolize and honor pop-stars and athletes for their beauty, talent, and athleticism as well as their swagger and riches, we have sometimes neglected to show true honor to those who deserve it the most. However, it isn't the ones who seek it or demand it that honor is truly due. The meek (power under God's control) servants are especially worthy. Paul tells us that respect and honor should be given to those who deserve it (Romans 13:7) and honoring others is something we should be trying to excel at, even if that means we get a little competitive about it.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

It would seem that honoring anyone except for God would be unfaithful. However, this isn't a subtle contradiction in the Bible. When we honor others, we are supposed to honor the fact that we see God living and working in their lives. For we are called to have our lives (Philippians 2:29) and minds consumed by honorable things (Philippians 4:8). As a result, this pursuit is honorable.

Once again, Paul, speaking to Timothy in Ephesus reminds that the church is to honor it's elders, especially those who love and serve the church in meekness. In fact, in some cases double honor is on the docket.

1 Timothy 5:17

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

As we reflect upon Jerry's announcement last Sunday and his need to step down from being a shepherd of this congregation, honor and rejoicing are the first things that should come to mind. Our love, our thanks, and our affirmation of their service is sure, and we continue to communicate it.

1 Corinthians 12:26b

...if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

We continue rejoice in and with Jerry and Shirley Joseph for their many years of selfless service to God's people. We have been blessed to see the Lord in their lives, and as a result, we honor them together, doubly.

Shalom,
Ryan