

**Romans 12:10**  
Competitive Deference

*Unpopular principle ...*

- I. With All Due Respect
  - A. Against Our Nature
  - B. Attitude of Grace
- II. We learn from Jesus
  - A. What He Said
  - C. What He Did
- III. The Proper Place of Honor
  - A. Ours to Others
    - 1. Live It
    - 2. Express It
  - B. Ours in the End

*... God honoring practice.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Should we make sure to always put ourselves first?
2. What does it mean to honor someone?
3. To honor someone do we have to first humble ourselves?
4. How did Jesus show us how to honor others?
5. What did Jesus have to do before He could receive glory in Heaven?

**More than Manners**

We may express honor in a number of ways but, no matter how dramatic our display is, if it is only an outward act it is a heartless formality. True esteem or honor for another if it is genuine is an expression of the heart. We are to show people in general due respect based by virtue of their bearing in them the image of God. While it is true there are certain positions and statuses that merit special honor, if we have a humble estimation of ourselves we will show respect to all of our neighbors. A special stress is placed on the people of God and the deference we show one another. Paul pressed the kind of honor that is believers are to confer upon one another, without distinction, in the body of Christ. There are a number of ways this text can be interpreted but one thing is crystal clear – we are to maintain a heart-felt respect and esteem for all God’s people, in fact the indication is that we are to strive to outdo each other in holding each other in highest regard. May God grant us each the grace and humility to uphold one another’s dignity and show each other utmost respect.