

The Lifestyle of Honor

Romans 12:9,10 **9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- **John Chrysostom (347-407)**, Bishop of Constantinople, declared in one of his great homilies, “**Do not, therefore, adorn the church and ignore your afflicted brother, for he is the most precious temple of all... God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts.**” This is the same sentiment expressed by the apostle Paul as we approach our text of focus and its broader context: the marks of a true Christian.
- In the two verses that our attention is drawn to this morning, the Apostle Paul gives five instructions:
 1. **Let love be genuine - Love is the ethical standard for Christian living. Therefore, it must be sincere and free from hypocrisy.** In other words, as we operate in the agape level of God, we will do two things in particular towards those we love:
 1. **We will inconvenience ourselves on their behalf.**
 2. **We will speak the truth to them in love, and we will tell the truth about them when we are not in their presence.**
 2. **Abhor what is evil - we must vehemently oppose all forms of evil, for the evil that we allow and entertain will ultimately be the evil that overtakes us.**
 3. **Hold fast to what is good -** the Greek terminology for hold fast denotes to glue, to the cement in or, to attach oneself to a thing permanently. **The Christian must not only commit to being good, but also commit to doing good for everyone. Goodness is not just a kind gesture here and there. It is a fruit of the Spirit that we should seek to operate in daily.**
 4. **Love one another with brotherly affection - *Philostorgos* (Greek).** Treat fellow believers as siblings and care for them, as a husband would for a wife or a mother would for a child.
 5. **Outdo one another in showing honor -** the Greek term for honor is *timē*, *it is a term of measurement denoting price or value.* **The most excellent way to honor one another is to give each other time.**



[Clip here to learn more about John Chrysostom](#)

We see this truth in full operation when Jesus stepped out of eternity into time, gestating himself in the womb of Mary, being born in the Bethlehem manger. He gave the ox, the lamb, the shepherds, and the Magi **time**. The 12 years he spent learning the ways of Joseph and Mary, he gave them **time**. The 18 years he spent in rabbinical school, he gave himself **time**. The 3 years he spent with the disciples teaching and training, he gave them **time**. And with his death, burial, and resurrection, he gave all of us **time**!