

## Be Devoted to and Honor One Another - Romans 12:9–16; Ruth 1:15–22 – Sermon Guide

### Purpose

To become a church family marked by humble devotion and generous honor, where we move toward one another in sincere love because we are both honored in Christ and humbled by grace.

### Ice Breaker

Share about a relationship where someone showed you loyalty, encouragement, or honor in a meaningful way. What made that relationship life-giving?

### Scripture Focus

**Romans 12:9–16 – Read Aloud**     Additional connections: **Ruth 1:15–22;**

### Observations from the Text

Romans 12 gives us a picture of love lived in community. Paul says, “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” The language is warm, family-like, and affectionate. Devotion means loyal, brotherly love. Honor means assigning weight, value, and importance to another person.

This command grows out of two truths:

- In Christ, we are **honored** beyond imagination.
- In Christ, we are **humbled** by our complete dependence on grace.

Healthy koinonia requires both. If we forget our God-given honor, we may live from shame or insecurity. If we forget humility, we may become proud, competitive, or self-protective..

### Core Teaching Connection

Ruth gives us a beautiful picture of Romans 12:10 before Paul ever wrote it. Naomi is grieving, bitter, empty, and uncertain about her future. Ruth does not lecture Naomi, fix her, or withdraw from her pain. Instead, Ruth binds her life to Naomi’s life: “Where you go I will go... Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

That is warm, costly, family-like devotion. Ruth honors Naomi by treating her as someone worth staying with, worth caring for, and worth belonging to—even when Naomi feels she has nothing left to offer.

The sermon offered four practices from Romans 12 that help us live this way:

1. **Love sincerely** — not with church politeness, but honest care.
2. **Open your heart** — rejoice and mourn with one another.

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3. **Meet the need** — act when you can help.
4. **Think vision** — see the God-given beauty in others.

A church shaped by this kind of love becomes a holy contrast in the world.

### **Group Discussion**

1. Why is it hard to hold together both honor and humility?
2. Which do you personally struggle to believe more: “I am honored in Christ” or “I am humbled by grace”?
3. How does Ruth show devotion to Naomi? How does she honor her?
4. What is the difference between biblical honor and putting someone on a pedestal?
5. Where do you see “church politeness” replacing sincere love?
6. What would change at CBC if honoring one another became normal?

### **Dig Deeper**

1. Read Romans 12:9–16. Which command feels most needed in your life right now?
2. Read Ruth 1:15–22. What does Ruth not do that makes her love so powerful?
3. Read Philippians 2:1–8. How does Jesus model both humility and honor?
4. The sermon said, “If I know I am secure in the Father’s love, I do not have to compete with you.” Where do comparison or competition weaken community?

### **Personal Reflection**

Take two quiet minutes before God:

- Where do I need to receive my honor in Christ more deeply?
- Where do I need to practice humility rather than pride or self-protection?

Consider one concrete step you can take this week to honor someone above yourself.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You that in Christ we are deeply loved, honored, and welcomed into Your family. Keep us humble, dependent on grace, and free from pride, comparison, and shame.

Teach us to love one another with sincere devotion. Give us open hearts, practical care, and eyes to see Your beauty in each person. Make CBC a church where honor is freely given, humility is deeply practiced, and koinonia becomes more than an idea.

May our life together bear witness to the love of Jesus.

In His name, Amen.