



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Roamin' In **Romans** *Romans Chapter 12*

Romans 12:10 - Family, Fathers & Honor

Message preached on Wednesday, March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th 2025

We are Family

Romans 12:1 – “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

“Living sacrifice” – willingly lay your flesh down to the Lord

DAD: “The problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar.”

BELOVED: I really want to remind us that everything that comes after verse 1...takes vs. 2 (renewing your mind) to accomplish...and will look like vs. 3 thru 21 in your life.

QUESTION: How do you know that you have laid your flesh down?

ANSWER #1: You will find your place in the body of Christ and operate in it effectively.

Not, fight for someone else's place.

ANSWER #2: You will genuinely love others. Not only the body of Christ...but all people.

ANSWER #3: You will hate evil and cleave to the good.

BASICALLY: Hate what God hates and love what God loves.

BELOVED: Don't let yourself become friends with the world.

James 4:4 – “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**”

10 ***Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;***

This is a very recognizable verse to us.

We speak on it often...preach on it often...focus on it often.

WHY? Because we set our focus on relationships often (covenant relationships).

There are five words that we want to set our attention on to understand what this verse is telling us.

NOTE: There are only six (6) Greek words in this verse and one of them is used twice.

1.) “One another” – this doesn't really take a lot of know-how to understand what it means.

HOWEVER: It does show...if it was written to the church in Rome...it is directing their focus to each other IN THE CHURCH (in the local body).

Whereas, love genuinely is a lifestyle wherever you go...and hate evil is a lifestyle, as is cleave to the good (meant to function wherever you roam).

Verse 10 if focused to the local body of believers.

So, us in here towards each other.

2.) **“Kindly affectionate”** – philostorgos – a compound word, friendship-tender love

DEFINED: A mutual love of parents and children; wives and husbands; family members; to love tenderly, cherishing
An intimate love and kindness to one another.

NOTE: This really shows us the relationship of a family...with one another.

3.) **“Brotherly love”** – philadelphia – (not the city) the love of brothers and sisters; to love dearly.

AGAIN: The relationship of a family.

BELOVED: What Paul is telling the church in Rome...and telling us...we are more than a gathering of odds-n-end people, we are to operate as a family.

UNFORTUNATELY: People have tendency to go to church and not really know each other. Just recognize their face and that is it.

We are a family!

RICK RENNER INTERPRETIVE for first part: “Love each other with the same love you have for your family. In fact, you should love each other with the same love that is shared between two brothers...”

“Blood is thicker than water” – covenant blood (bound in covenant) is thicker than the water of the womb.

Have you ever noticed your DRAW to your physical family...if there was ever a separation with them, it was hard...well, it should be MORE SO with your spiritual family.

If you are able to leave, willy-nilly, you need to ask yourself if you were ever really connected.

UNDERSTAND: The church is NOT a man-made society that we can participate in or opt-out of according to our own level of comfort (PTA or boosters). It is a family.

ILLUSTRATION: My grandma’s rule...once they are there three times, they are no longer a visitor and have to help out with chores.

Think about brotherly love:

- ~ Pick on each other, but nobody else better pick on them.
- ~ Know secrets.
- ~ Help out of stuff (Jewelie and me when girls broke up with me).
- ~ Friends?
- ~ Go through same things together (same family stuff, etc.)

OFTEN spiritual family can be deeper than physical family (talk about Ruth and Naomi).

A couple more thoughts on family:

1.) God connects us.

THINK ABOUT THIS: We don’t get to choose our physical family...we are stuck with them.

The Bible tells us time and again that WE ARE PLANTED where God wants us.

A lot of people put career or even family over church...but God puts church family as priority and will bless you in that spot.

Psalms 1:3

2.) We grow together...because of each other.

Ephesians 4:12-16

My sisters and I grew together. They were at my parties...I was at theirs. I was at their big moments, they were at mine.

BELOVED: We share life!

Acts 20:18 – “And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,”

3.) We don’t always get along...but we don’t run.

We have each other’s backs...and we are still related.

Family can be messy. We fix it...we stick with it!

BELOVED: Don’t be offended or hurt...work things out. ***Let peace rule!***

- 4.) God gives us coverings to feed us.
How many have heard their kids say, "I'm not hungry."
Did that stop you from feeding them? Nope! Therefore, they grew and got stronger.

God gives you spiritual leaders (fathers/mothers) to feed you.
They don't ask you want sounds good...they make what is necessary for that moment.

Spiritual Fathers

GOD is our Heavenly Father...no one takes that place, but He loves you enough to put spiritual leaders (fathers) in your life to guide you.

MANY feel that whoever leads you to Christ is your spiritual father....think of that in natural terms.

HOWEVER: That is not really the case, according to the Word.

What is a Spiritual Father?

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- 14 I write not these things to shame you, but ***as my beloved sons I warn you.***

SPIRITUAL FATHERS will warn you and keep you on track.

Hebrews 13:17 – "Obey them that have rule over you..."

NOTE: There will be correction...but there will also be affirmation.

Philippians 2:20-22

20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

22 But you know of his proven character, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

THERE are a lot of people who loves to correct...not a lot who affirm and encourage.

NOTE: This doesn't mean they are perfect...just like your earthly father. They are growing too.

- 15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ***ye not many fathers:*** for in Christ Jesus I have ***begotten you through the gospel.***

SPIRITUAL FATHERS feed you! Timely feeding.

NOTE: A lot of people want to just run to the internet to listen to a little bit of everyone (ten thousand instructors); but your spiritual father must give an account of your life.

They will step on your toes...get in your business.

Hebrews 13:17 – "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

- 16 Wherefore I beseech you, ***be ye followers of me.***

SPIRITUAL FATHERS operate as examples IN FRONT of you.

Acts 20:18 – Paul was with them in every season.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (NASB)

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

AGAIN: It doesn't mean they are perfect...but we can learn from their mistakes.

- 17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

ONE PERSON SAID: Spiritual fathers impart into us love, identity, spiritual covering, prays for us, and is concerned for our well-being.

IN RETURN we love, honor, serve and give.

LET'S GO BACK to Romans 12:10 and our final two words:

4.) **"Honor"** – a valuing where the price is fixed and precious; being appraised very highly or considered very valuable or very precious.

This describes an appreciation SO GREAT that you would rather see them succeed than yourself.

The Bible talks about those that we are honor:

- ~ God (Proverbs 3:9)
- ~ Mom and dad (Exodus 20:12)
- ~ Man of God (1 Timothy 5:17)
- ~ All men (1 Peter 2:17)

Romans 13:7 – honor to whom honor is due!

NOTE: We are to honor ONE ANOTHER. Value the person next to you higher than your self.

5.) **"Preferring"** – to go before; to esteem, admire, highly respect, value highly

Value higher than your own self.

LITERALLY: To value so highly that you deeply desire the VERY BEST to come to pass, even at your own expense.

NOTE: This presents the idea that there is NO ROOM for JEALOUSY.

Have you ever heard a testimony from someone and your immediate response was, "Why doesn't that thing happen to me?" instead of rejoicing with them.

THINK OF the only person happier than you when you succeed GREATLY! Yep, mom and dad!

RICK RENNER INTERPRETIVE for second part: "...the value you place on each other should be so high that it makes you desire to see those you love excel and achieve much in life, even if it means that they excel and achieve more than you do."

A few questions to finish up:

- 1.) Is this your concept of your church family?
Then you need to grow...you need to LAY DOWN YOUR FLESH. RENEW your mind!
How can you improve...where do you lack?
- 2.) Who are those people that you feel like they are legitimately your family?
- 3.) Have you ever expressed that to those people?

Message preached on April 9, 2025

Romans 12:1,2

Lay down your flesh...your flesh is selfish.

Renew your mind...your mind is a battle ground.

Vs. 3 – You’ve got to reduce your ego...it is selfish.

SAY: I’ve got to reduce my selfish ego.

Vs. 4-5 – You have to find your place in the body.

SAY: I’ve must find my place in the body...if I am a heel, so be it.

Vs. 6-8 – You must be aware of why you do what you do, and why those around you do what they do... motivational gifts.

SAY TO SOMEONE: I see you...I know you may have different motivations than me, but we work together as ONE.

To build on that, we find ourselves in Romans 12:10,

“Be *kindly affectioned* one to another *with brotherly love*; in honour preferring one another;”

BELOVED: NOT only a body...not only different motivations...but we are a family.

AGAIN: This is laying down our flesh and renewing our mind.

SAY TO THAT PERSON (not a family member): We are a family, in Christ. You are my sibling. We are doing this life together!

AN IMPORTANT part of a family are the parents...or COVERINGS.

I believe these coverings are best understood as spiritual fathers/mothers.

We looked at three main identifiers of your spiritual fathers (1 Cor. 4:14-17):

~ Warn, correct and affirm you.

~ Feed you like their life depends on it...they answer for what they feed you.

~ They live their lives in front of you (examples).

~ Point being, they must be involved in your life, in front of you. Some a distance away from you...feeding you on the internet, etc.

Continue a bit of spiritual fatherhood:

As I was doing some reading on spiritual fathers...I ran across someone who brought up the story of the Prodigal Son.

This account is a perfect look at how a earthly father/Heavenly Father/or even a spiritual father should operate.

Of course we are focused on the spiritual father.

- * A spiritual father has compassion on his children. Sees their desires...how they operate.
- * A spiritual father is approachable.
- NOTE:** It doesn’t mean all will understand that...but he is approachable.
- * A spiritual father is appropriately affectionate.
- IN OTHER WORDS:** Knows when to discipline and knows when to embrace.
- * A spiritual father brings out your best...develops gifts...develop leaders.
- The father didn’t allow the prodigal to stay in pity and the ditch.
- * A spiritual father gives second chances...forgives...empowers.
- * A spiritual father celebrates life with his sons and daughters.

Romans 13:7 – honor to whom honor is due!

The Bible talks about those that we are honor:

1.) **All men!**

1 Peter 2:17 – “Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

NOTE: Our focus will be on the last three areas of honoring...but it is easy to translate honor to everyone we come across in the church and outside the church.

- 2.) God – Technically #1
1 Samuel 2:30 – “Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; ***for them that honour me I will honour***, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”
- 3.) Mom and Dad.
Ephesians 6:2,3
 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
Exodus 20:12 – “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”
- 4.) Man of God (1 Timothy 5:17)
1 Timothy 5:17 – “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”

NOTE: If we understand #4 as a spiritual father...guess what we have...honor our earthly fathers, our Heavenly Father and our spiritual fathers.

ONE THING I WILL SAY: We need our mind renewed to what honoring means.

Romans 12:10 – “...in honour preferring one another.”

I did a study on this a while ago...and I think honor comes down to six things.

- 1.) Listen to them.
 God (John 14:15);
 Parents (Proverbs 23:22);
 Coverings (2 Chron. 20:20; Hebrews 13:17)
- 2.) Connect with your heart.
 God (Matthew 15:8);
 Parents (Malachi 4:6);
 Coverings (1 Cor. 4:14-17; Acts 20:18).
- 3.) Divine authority.
 This is just Godly.
- 4.) Speak good.
 God (obvious);
 Parents (Exodus 21:17, Mark 7:10);
 Coverings (see Numbers 11).
- 5.) Giving money.
 God (Proverbs 3:9);
 Parents (Mark 7:11-13...it was required for kids to financially help parents in Israel);
 Coverings (1 Timothy 5:17; Galatians 6:6).
- 6.) Any opportunity.
 God – Holidays, every morning, etc.
 Parents – Birthdays, Anniversaries, Holidays
 Coverings – Birthdays, Christmas, Anniversaries, etc. (1 Thessalonians 5:12,13)