

# RELATIONAL SURVIVAL GUIDE



August 20, 2017

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## The “Lighthouse Library” of Romans 12:9-13 (or How to Go for “Gold” in Paul’s “Honor Olympics”)

ESV **Romans 12:9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another in showing honor (Gk., “τιμή,” pronounced “Timay”).** <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

### Romans 12:9-13: A Travelling Lighthouse Library

ESV **Romans 12:10b** Outdo one another in showing honor.

ESV **Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit...

#### 1. What is “honor”?

τιμή, ἥς, ἡ (manifestation of esteem, *honor, reverence*)

#### 2. What is its basis?

#### Karl Barth on “Command Honor”

*“The command of God is as such an incomprehensible recognition of [human beings] on the part of God, an expression of His esteem, a distinction. God could only be a God enthroned high above [the human]. In the human world as in all other spheres of His creation He could in His omnipotence direct everything according to His will for the best,...but over [the human being’s] head and without consulting him. He could simply be a Questioner waiting for [the human’s] answer, a Commander looking for his obedience. ... In fact, however, He does not do so. He considers [the human being] worthy that He should confront him as his Commander and stand on his level as Partner with partner. This is the wonderful condescension of God in His command, and this is [the human being’s] wonderful exaltation and honouring” (Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, III.4, 649).*

*“And in His grace, in the freedom in which He needs him, He needs him truly and seriously” (Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, III.4, 657).*

#### 3. How do we show it? (Or how to go for “gold” in Paul’s “Honor Olympics”?)

## Five possibilities (H-O-N-O-R)

a. **Hone the habit of \_\_\_\_\_ with love.**

ESV **Mark 10:21** And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ...

ESV **Luke 7:44** Then turning toward the woman [Jesus] said to Simon, Do you see this woman?

b. **Offer the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ by name.**

ESV **Luke 19:5** Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.

ESV **Luke 10:41** But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,...

c. **Nudge meaningless encounters towards meaningful \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_**

ESV **John 4:9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

d. **Observe the Christ-like service of others and \_\_\_\_\_ it.**

ESV **Romans 12:6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

ESV **Luke 7:9** When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

e. **Re-capture the \_\_\_\_\_ with a vision of their "command honor" (with the aim of helping them return to it).**

ESV **Matthew 5:13** You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

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## Digging Deeper into Our Relationship with Each Other

### This week's passages:

**Monday:** Romans 12:9-13; Mark 10:17-31

**Tuesday:** Luke 7:36-50

**Wednesday:** Luke 19:1-10

**Thursday:** John 4:1-43

**Friday:** Luke 7:1-10; Philippians 2:19-30

**Saturday:** Luke 5:13-16; I Thessalonians 5:12-24

This week our study leads us into further discovery of the Way of Jesus, specifically his way with spiritual conversation. Each day you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you, staying especially alert to the ways of Christ.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1:22).