

# Prefer One Another

Romans 12:10 says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."

**The basis is love.** Paul reminds us that we are to love one another. He spells that out with nine specific instructions in Romans 12:9-10. We honor fellow believers because **Fellow believers are created in God's image**. If we love God, if we honor God, then we love and honor that which He has made.

**They are brothers and sisters in Christ.** 1 John 3:14 says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." Our faith in Christ knits our hearts together.

**We are glad for the ways in which they are building up the Body of Christ.** John Wesley and George Whitefield had parted ways over a doctrinal disagreement. Wesley was later asked if he would see Whitefield in Heaven. Wesley said, "No, I will not see him." His questioner, shocked, said, "You mean you don't think that Whitefield will be with the Lord?" "No," replied Wesley, "He will be so close to the Lord that the glory will prevent me from seeing him."

**The condition is active.** It tells us to **outdo** one another and prefer each other in the church. It implies activity in promoting another person.

Paul is saying, "Be alert to what they are contributing and honor them." "God's call to the church is to prefer one another to succeed" (Simon Schrock). The Christian "is content to be outshone by others in gifts and esteem, so that the crown of Christ may shine the brighter" (Thomas Watson).

**Its practice is workable.** When we prefer one another, it means that: We **listen to one another**, instead of thinking about what we're going to say next.

We **avoid one-upsmanship**. It is all right to converse about a subject, yet we don't want to put others down by bragging about our accomplishments in that subject.

We **have confidence in another's gifts/abilities/gifts/talents** to do a job, even though we might be better qualified. This means we refrain from criticizing from the sidelines. It also implies a willingness to step aside so that someone else may engage in the activity, office, or event.

We **offer help before being asked**. We do this to be truly helpful, to share of ourselves so that the other person might succeed.

We ***don't care who receives the credit***. "There is no limit to how much can be accomplished as long as you don't care who receives the credit."

We ***offer the best to others*** while we take what is left. Abraham and Lot are the perfect examples of this in Genesis 13:9.

We don't care ***whether we were thanked*** for our efforts.

Warren Wiersbe has written this prayer: "O God, help me to get my work done, and it makes no difference who gets the honor, as long as You get the glory." Amen.

All Scripture references are from the KJV

**Craig Alan Myers – CBC Executive Board**

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## **Weekly Prayer Points**

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." ***Romans 1:16***

Heavenly Father and Mighty Savior, we praise You for Your awesome power to save.

We are grateful for the depth of Your love for us that You would choose to sacrifice Your only Son to bring the precious and costly gift of eternal life for anyone who would receive it.

Open our hearts to the leading of the Holy Spirit to be a light to others, pointing the way to the only one who has the mighty power to save. Open our eyes to see and respond to every opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. The fields are ripe, and we ask you to open the hearts of unbelievers to understand and accept Jesus Christ as their Mighty Savior.

### **Please pray for these congregations and pastors:**

- Trinity Congregation in Blountville, TN and Pastor Harold Royal
- Upendo Congregation in Tanzania Africa and Pastor Suzana Magudi Lunyalula

**CBC Prayer Committee**