

## Lesson 11 – Principles 5 Honor Wars

Read the lesson below and then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.” (Romans 12:10-13 NIV)

What would life look like if we focused more on honoring others above ourselves instead of making sure no one hurts our feelings and we are treated with respect? This alone would change our outlook on life from one dragged down by life’s struggles and unfairness to one looking to lift others up. How can we not be built up as we encourage others with random acts of honor?

You’ve heard of keeping up with the Jones’s and “an eye for an eye” and “a tooth for a tooth.” What if we flip this script into a house full of brothers doing their best to “one up” the other in honor? One man clears and washes another man’s dishes on a Friday night. Next, the second man makes dinner for his brother on Saturday night. Perhaps a brother gives up his favorite TV program so that another can watch something new. How about bragging about your brother’s greatness to a third party? What if your wants are voluntarily set aside in order to honor or treat another with something he desires?

Now, what if this turns into an all-out war of honor? What might this look like?

1. Describe how honor is more about action than a lack of action.
2. Why is honor more about who we are than how the other person is treating us?
3. If everyone in your home made it a point to honor the other men in your home, how might that change the atmosphere in your home?
4. Tell three brothers in your living area how you could honor him more than you have been honoring him. How did you feel after you did this?
5. For the next week, choose to honor others in your living area above yourself by committing random acts of honor to others. Keep a journal (attached) during this week tracking what you did to honor another brother, the brother’s name, and how you felt after each time. At the end of that week, note any observations about any change in the atmosphere in the living area as well as about any change in the atmosphere in your life.

Keeping this journal is not about keeping score. Instead, it is a tool to help you to make a connection between your choosing to honor radically and the effect it has on you and your surroundings. Remember, we are called to be thermostats, not thermometers. During this week, you can change your environment.

