

13- We are commanded to detest the lie and consistently adhere to the truth.

14- In this way we are able to express unconditional love toward our fellow man while avoiding hypocrisy in the process.

E-8/30B  
B-9/11 4-

**Honor Code Principle #4:** Unconditional love among believers requires the same devotion to each other as found among family members. Also the willingness to show deference to other believers as a matter of honor and protocol. Romans 12:

v 10 = With reference to your brotherly love, be devoted to each other; with reference to honor, let each one of you esteem others more highly than yourself.

1- When you consider the variety of personalities found within a local church and then contemplate the various stages of spiritual growth found within the group, you get some idea of the need for a system whereby all can get along.

2- This is true especially when the trends, weaknesses and strengths of every old sin nature are factored in.

3- What helps cultivate tolerance and flexibility within the congregation is the presence of a common denominator which all possess.

4- The fact is, there are several common denominators which, when recognized, motivate unconditional love, fraternal devotion, and genuine deference among believers.

5- The most sobering common denominator possessed by members of a local church is the imputation of God's perfect righteousness.

6- Every believer is equal with every other believer in the eyes of God and Jesus Christ.

7- Christ is Head of the church. Every believer is a member of His body and is imputed at salvation the same portfolio of invisible assets as all others.

8- No believer is more favorably endowed by the grace of God than any other believer.

- 9- You may not approve of another believer's lifestyle, manners, wardrobe, vocabulary, habits, idiosyncrasies, background, race, or family lineage.
- 10- But this evaluation must not stop with what you perceive to be shortcomings. Your analysis must continue to include recognition of their spiritual status before God.
- 11- Genuine humility would also require you to consider that if you had been placed in the same circumstances as the person you analyze, you would be an even worse specimen than they are.
- 12- Human viewpoint may conclude the person to be a less than desirable specimen. Grace orientation will enable you to view them as a recovering sinner just as you are.
- 13- Thus, recognition of their +R motivates unconditional love.
- 14- Consideration of their equal station in the royal family encourages a fraternal devotion.
- 15- Recognition of their perfect status in the eyes of God will generate a willingness to show deference to them as superiors.

*E-9/11*  
*B-9/13*  
Principles on "esteem others more highly than yourself":

- 1- Recognition of +R in others motivates a devotion among members of the Royal family similar to that experienced within the family unit.
- 2- The devotion among nuclear family members is fraternal and is motivated by bloodlines which form the physical chart pedigree.
- 3- The devotion among royal family members is spiritual and is motivated by a mutual possession of God's righteousness which forms the spiritual chart pedigree.
- 4- It is a matter of honor therefore not to produce any mental attitude sins, verbalize any sins of the tongue or to perform any overt sins against your fellow spiritual family members.
- 5- Recognition of mutual equality within the family of God avoids the development of inordinate competition among family members.