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THE FAMILY OF GOD

I grew up in a church where we called the men “brother” and the women “sister.” This applied to everyone equally, not so as to elevate honor of one above others, including pastor, elders, or deacons. If the pastor was Bob Smith, he was called “Brother Smith” and not Pastor Bob or Pastor Smith.

This came about because we, as believers, are all children of God through Christ. We are sons and daughters of God. Therefore, we are all brothers and sisters equally loved in God’s sight. To address somebody by a title is to elevate their esteem above others. Although we each have a different function in the body of Christ, the Church, we are not to esteem some as being better than others.

Romans 2:11 says, ***“For there is no respect of persons with God.”*** This is repeated in Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; and James 2:1-3, so it must be very important. It is also repeated in another context in 1 Peter 1:17.

Therefore, calling one another brother or sister is not only scriptural, but also honors all of us as children of God who are equally loved by God.

It does not mean we do not put value in an office or position in ministry. We continue to respect their position and whatever authority may come with it. We value their position, but we do not or should not put them on a pedestal exalting them with honor above others in the body of Christ.

I still call ministry leaders brother or sister, as well as everyone else in the church. Titles are man-made. Ministry callings are God-made. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all part of the family of God.