



RESPECT

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We live in a time when respect for others and their property is lacking. It is not uncommon for young people and even adults to show no deference to the aged, those in authority or those who sacrifice and serve in the community. In the Bible the virtue of respect is conveyed in the words "honour". Christians have the duty to honour those to whom honour is due, and as parents we have an obligation to train our children to render this respect.

The deference and respect we show others says a lot about how we view ourselves.

How do children learn respect?

They learn through observation. They learn how to honour and respect by observing how their parents honour and respect one another, the elderly, those in authority and people in general. They learn how to respect other people's homes and public places by observing their parents doing the same. Parents who value and respect their own and other's possessions set a good example for their children to follow.

They learn through instruction. Parents have a duty to God and to their children to instruct them in the reasons for being respectful. These principles equip them for success in life.

They learn by correction. While it is unfortunate, it is nevertheless often necessary to apply correction. A failure to do this when it is called for encourages further disrespect.

Being Respected

One of the difficult lessons to learn in life is that we are sometimes disappointed by those whom we have come to respect. Parents sin, governments become corrupt, men become wicked. In times like these, we remember that the honour we give others, even the undeserving, is a reflection of how we regard and value Christ.

Checklist for Acting Respectfully towards others.

<p>Tone of Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I using an honest, polite voice or am I being sarcastic, rude or critical? • Am I shouting or am I using the appropriate loudness for the situation? 	<p>Body Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I using eye contact. • Is my body posture angry or welcoming? • Is my facial expression welcoming and respectful?
<p>Choice of Words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I using polite words? • Am I avoiding criticism and accusations? • Am I using words to be positive and seek a solution? 	<p>Respectful Behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I saying, "Please" and "Thank-you"? • Am I saying, "Excuse me" or "Pardon me"? • Do I introduce newcomers to a group? • Do I greet people when I meet them? • Do I say, "I'm sorry" when a mistake has been made? • Am I respectful toward older people and authority figures?
<p>Paying Attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I giving others my attention? • Am I honouring their feelings as well as my own 	

Sometimes the young demand respect for themselves. They are certainly entitled to the same honour which others receive. However, the same assumptions hold for them as well, those honoured are honourable and the respected are respectable.

Paul admonished Timothy to let no man despise his youth. In order to accomplish that task Paul urged Timothy to be an example in all areas of life. If we want to be respected we must learn it and earn it.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29

