

## GIVING RESPECT

Ten Values for God's People

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church

October 18, 2009

Pastor Michael McCall

\*\*\*\*\*  
God values respect and expects His people to value respect. Respect is even the framework for a civilized society. Without civility, civilization decays. The Bible is specific about this. Honor God. Honor our parents. Respect others...government, law enforcement, military, your boss, and church leaders. Wives respect husbands and husbands their wives. And just in case God forgets anybody, 1 Peter 2:17 **Show proper respect to everyone.** Everybody is worthy of respect. Everyone wants to be respected. It is a basic need in life. We want other people to treat us with r-e-s-p-e-c-t.

### WHY SHOULD EVERYONE BE TREATED WITH RESPECT?

- 1. BECAUSE GOD MADE EVERYBODY.** Psalm 8:5 **You (God) made man a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.** Everybody is created by God and God doesn't make junk. There are no worthless people. People do worthless things and wrong things, but all people are of value to God. Even the most unlovable person is loved by God.
- 2. BECAUSE JESUS DIED FOR EVERYONE.** 1 Peter 1:18-19 (Living Bible) **God paid a ransom to save you. He paid for you with the precious life blood of Christ.** I may not think much about somebody, but God does...God says they are worth dying for. The cross shows how much people matter to God. God says, "I died for people. Even people who don't believe in Me or reject Me or choose to disobey Me. I still died for them because they're people of worth, people of value." God made people and Christ died for them because **"God so loved the world..."** (John 3:16)
- 3. BECAUSE IT SHOWS WE KNOW GOD.** 1 John 4:8 **Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.** Love always treats people with respect. If you look at the life of Jesus, he treated even the people who were trying to put him to death with respect. If I am filled with Christ's love and Christ's Spirit, then I'm going to treat people the way Jesus did...with value and with dignity. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says **Love is not rude.** Rudeness is disrespect. It means I don't care about you. You don't matter to me. You're not valuable in my eyes. So I treat you with disrespect...or rudeness.
- 4. BECAUSE WE WILL GET BACK WHATEVER WE GIVE OUT.** Galatians 6:7 **A man reaps what he sows.** It's the law of the harvest. The reciprocal rule. Whatever goes around comes around. You give out and you'll get back. If you want to be respected, treat other people with respect. If you want to be treated and valued with dignity, treat other people with value and dignity. If you want people to smile at you, you smile at them. Whatever you give out, you're going to get back.

### HOW SHOULD WE SHOW RESPECT?

- 1. WHEN WE SPEAK TO OTHER PEOPLE...BE TACTFUL, NOT JUST TRUTHFUL.** Proverbs 15(LB) **Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit.** The primary way we show respect is with our words...kindness and tactfulness. You can say the same thing in different ways and it will be accepted or rejected. Watch inflection. Tactfulness is emotional lubrication. It is key to a happy home and to getting along in life with other people. It's the key to strong friendships. Learning how to be truthful and tactful at the same time is an absolute essential of being respectful. People with tact often have a lot less to retract. You don't have to eat your words so often if you say them in a kind way.
- 2. WHEN WE ARE BEING SERVED BY PEOPLE, BE UNDERSTANDING NOT DEMANDING.** Jesus in Luke 6:31 **"Do to others as you would have them do to you."** It takes character and maturity and strength to be understanding, not demanding, of people. The secret of great service is to treat people the way you would like to be treated. When a waitress serves you, understand she may be under a lot of stress. She may have three kids at home and be a single parent. Or the last three customers may have been rude. Or there's a slow down in the kitchen due to 1 cook instead of 3 and it's not her fault. If you are understanding, not demanding - then you treat people with respect...sympathetic of their situations...considerate of their stress...you treat them with value and dignity.
- 3. WHEN WE DISAGREE WITH PEOPLE, BE GENTLE NOT JUDGMENTAL.** Romans 14:12 **"Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on each other."** When someone is my neighbor or I work with them or they are a relative - and they have a lifestyle or make a choice, action, attitude, behavior that I disagree with and know is wrong -how am I supposed to relate to these people? 3 things: 1) Remember that ultimately every individual will be accountable to God for their own attitudes, actions and behaviors. 2) Remember I'm not God. 3) Remember to speak the truth in love. Telling the truth is not being judgmental. If I said, Drink strychnine and you'll die, that's not being judgmental, that is telling the truth. If I tell people who are disobeying God's moral laws that it's going to cause all kinds of consequences in their life, that's not being judgmental, it's telling the truth. What is judgmental is taking your version of truth and beating people up with it. Jesus did not do that. Truth is told to help people, not to harm people.
- 4. WHEN WE SHARE OUR FAITH WITH PEOPLE, RESPECT DON'T REJECT THEM.** 1 Peter 3:15-16 **Always be prepared to give an answer...but do this with gentleness and respect.** You can't argue people into heaven...or blow them away by saying "You're going to die and fry while we fly to the sky!" James 1:20 **A man's anger does not bring about the**

**righteousness of God.** God says, "I want you to shine as a light, not be a blow torch. Be tactful with those who are unbelievers.

**5. WHEN PEOPLE ARE RUDE TO US, RESPOND POLITELY.** Romans 12:20 ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*** Don't retaliate...adding fuel to the fire and making things worse. Betsy, an 8yo soccer player, had an opponent come up to her after a game and say "Your team stunk!" Betsy looked her in the eye and said, "You played a great game." The opponent was speechless (and hopefully felt bad). Betsy felt good. She had done what Jesus would do.

### **BEYOND RESPECT IS HONOR**

***"Honor your father and mother"*** is the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment... Exodus 20:12 goes on to say ***"so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you"***...Ephesians 6:3 says ***"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*** Which is Bible-ese for "if momma's not happy, nobody's happy". Honor is pleasing the other person...Respect is satisfying their expectation. Honor is beyond respect...respect is action, honor is attitude...and both begin in the family. A child learns to relate to authority with respect. You won't get along in this world if you don't know how to respect authority. But God wants more than obedience when it comes to our relationship with him and with our parents. God wants us to learn esteem. In our Sunday evening Honor Club... honor is defined as doing more than what is expected, and having a good attitude. Honor is a matter of the heart...a relational term...you have value in my life. Respect is a matter of the head...a positional term...you have authority in my life. Respect authority and treat everyone with respect...learn civility. Honor God and honor your parents...learn esteem. Value both - respect and honor.