

# Respect, Honor, and Dignity

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

RESPECT', n.

1. Regard; attention.
2. That estimation or honor in which men hold the distinguished worth or substantial good qualities of others. It expresses less than reverence and veneration, which regard elders and superiors; whereas respect may regard juniors and inferiors.
3. That deportment or course of action which proceeds from esteem; regard; due attention; as, to treat a person with respect.
4. Good will; favor.

HON'OR, v.

1. To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission, and perform relative duties to. Honor thy father and thy mother. Ex.20.
2. To reverence; to manifest the highest veneration for, in words and actions; to entertain the most exalted thoughts of.
3. To dignify; to raise to distinction or notice; to elevate in rank or station; to exalt.
4. To treat with due civility and respect in the ordinary intercourse of life.

DIGNITY, n. *L., worthy.*

1. True honor; nobleness or elevation of mind, consisting in a high sense of propriety, truth and justice, with an abhorrence of mean and sinful actions. The man who deliberately injures another, whether male or female, has no true dignity of soul.
2. Elevation; honorable place or rank of elevation; degree of excellence, either in estimation, or in the order of nature.
3. Elevation of aspect; grandeur of mein; as a man of native dignity.
4. Elevation of deportment; as dignity of manners or behavior.
5. So the word carries the meaning of being elevated from baseness in every aspect.

- I. I believe that failing to respect others is the most common transgression that people commit before God.
  - A. The Bible is full of commandments and instructions about this matter.
  - B. When Jesus reduced the entire moral law into two points this was one of them:

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is

like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- C. He could not have emphasized more how we are to be toward other people.
  - 1. Not just how we speak to them and treat them, but how we think toward them in our heart.

II. Failing to respect other people is the root of all strife and division.

- A. When we show disrespect for someone they immediately put up a wall between them and us.
- B. This applies to everyone we have any kind of social interaction with.
  - 1. It includes husband and wife, family, parents, children, siblings.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

- C. Respect is not always reciprocated.
- D. But respect is certainly lost for someone who shows no respect.

III. Disrespect shows a disdain and disregard for the person and life of another.

- A. It is a symptom of pure selfish thinking by a person who lives in a realm where they imagine themselves better and higher than everyone else.
- B. It shows that we do not even consider the other a person at all, but a thing.
  - 1. Disrespect says that we do not consider their feelings.
  - 2. It says we do not consider or even think about their history or their present life and what they have to deal with.
  - 3. We see them as trees walking and not clearly as a human being who has all the feelings and concerns and problems of life that we do.

IV. Disrespect happens when foolish talk, joking, jesting begin.

Ephesians 5:3-4 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

- A. Foolish talking and jesting are included in this list of the most gross sins, and the next verse affirms that people who do these things are not going to heaven.
- B. It all begins as fun but someone always ends up getting hurt.
- C. It always happens because someone has to end up being the butt of the jokes.
- D. They may smile but they have been disrespected and they do not forget it.
- E. They have been “put in their place” by those around them and they smart for it.
- F. Foolish talking and jesting (which is wittiness – being able to cut down others with words while laughing about it) should be avoided.
- G. We should determine and resolve that we will not treat others that way and that we will be careful and mindful of their feelings.
- H. We should rather seek to heal the wounds others have inflicted on people and re-establish and reinforce their dignity.

V. People can treat others with respect when they have in view some way they will benefit from it.

- A. This is what the Bible refers to as “respect of persons” and is condemned plainly as “sin.”

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

- B. This is completely different than truly honoring and respecting other people.
- C. “Respect of persons” is pure selfishness while respecting and honoring others is purely benevolent.

VI. People can recognize the evil of disrespect when it is someone disrespecting someone they love.

- A. Wife or husband.
- B. Father or Mother
- C. Children or siblings
- D. But there is a disconnect when it comes to others and we laugh with those who dishonor them and regard them as nothing.
- E. Then on the other hand, it seems that close friends or family many times use the familiarity as an excuse to dishonor or show no respect.
- F. These are the very people where we should be learning first to show honor and respect.

VII. This failure to honor other people is the doom of civilized people.

- A. Any crime committed against another person is because of this missing character trait.
- B. It is the underlying reason for all the hatred, strife, and frustration where people are living, working, driving, or doing anything together.

VIII. Honoring other people is the very basis of all moral law.

- A. It does not consist of a list of rules and laws that we are forced to live by.
- B. It is the nature of a heart that is submitted to God to love others as himself.

Matthew 5:43-48 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

- C. Respect does not have to be earned – it is the duty of every person to respect others.
  - 1. No one has the right to demand respect before he will give it.
  - 2. It is not based upon mutual respect but on the love and character of God.

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.