

R-E-S-P-E-C-T
A Little Respect Can Go A Long Way
"Attitude Series"
1 Peter 2: 17 NKJV

1 Peter 2:17 – Honor all people, Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

[Prayer]

Introduction: A disgruntled old man sat in a rocking chair on the front walk of his business. He owned one of those mom and pop grocery stores on the corner in a small town. As he rocked back and forth, he watched the people pass by on the street. Every now and then he'd address one of the folks walking by in order to attract business. "How you doin' today?" he'd ask. "Just fine," the person would answer. "How about you come on in and we'll make you a deal?" he'd say. "Not interested. I heard how you treat your customers." "Oh, yeah?! And how's that?" the old man would say as he stood up to get a little closer to the patron. "Well. You follow them around and if they don't want to buy one of your products, you call them names. If they don't want to buy your deodorant, you call them Stinky. If they don't want to buy your food, you call them Anorexic Monkeys. If they buy too much of your food, you call them Fatties. If they don't want to buy your shampoo, you call them Nappy Head. If they don't want to buy your toothpaste or mouthwash, you call them Fart Breath. You don't have any respect for anyone that comes in your store." The old man thought for a minute and said, "I guess you're right, you critical Dimwit." And the guy answered, "My point exactly."

How's your attitude? Are you prone to name calling? How do you treat people that come around you? We're going to spend the next four weeks talking about attitude...this morning and the next few Sunday evenings during our ConneXions group, and regardless of what kind of shape your attitude is in, you may have the best attitude in here, or you could have the worst. No matter where you're at, you can always get better. I'm determined to get better over the next few weeks, how about you? Let's begin our series with one of the first steps to a better attitude – respect.

I. R-E-S-P-E-C-T. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

Respect. What does it mean to you? What does the word respect mean. Webster defines respect as to feel or show honor or esteem for; to show consideration for. Ok, now we have to define honor, esteem, and consideration. Honor = having regard for others and their feelings. Respect is to feel or show high regard for or to value highly; to have a regard for others and their feelings. When you respect someone, you care about how you make them feel, and you treat them better.

II. WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!

Illustration: One day an angry little boy ran around his village shouting, "I hate you! I hate you!" No one knew quite how to respond to him. Eventually the little boy ran to the edge of a steep cliff and shouted into the valley, "I hate you! I hate you!" Back from the valley came an echo: "I hate you! I hate you!" Startled at this, the boy ran home. With tears in his eyes, he told his mother that there was a mean little boy in the valley who shouted at him, "I hate you! I hate you!" His mother took the boy back to the cliff and told him to shout, "I love you! I love you!" When he did, back came the reply: "I love you! I love you!" From that day on, the little boy wasn't angry anymore.

The Bible teaches in II Corinthians 9:6 – Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Luke 6:38 says: “Give and it shall be given to you...with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

How many of ya’ll want respect? How do you get respect? To be respected, you must first show respect. It’s plain and simple. The law of sowing and reaping works in more than just finances. If you sow apple seeds, you won’t reap cherries, will you? If you so respect, you’ll reap respect. If you so disrespect and name-calling, what are you going to reap?

Matthew 7:12 teaches “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...”

Respect is one of those qualities that comes from “doing to others as you would have them do to you.” You don’t want people calling you names like Stinky and Fart Breath, do you? When we start treating people like we want to be treated then we may be treated how we want to be treated. How do you want to be treated?

You can’t honestly expect to be treated with consideration if you’re not treating others with consideration. You don’t really think you’re going to get respect if you’re disrespectful, do you? If you’re a jerk to other people, then people are going to be jerks to you. It’s a biblical law.

Illustration: There were two people eating in a restaurant. One person was rude and disrespectful. He didn’t like the food he ordered, so he cussed the waitress out and made her take it back. He treated the waitress like she was his slave. The other person was nice and respectful. He too didn’t like the food he ordered, but he kindly told the waitress how he felt instead of cussing her out. “My food isn’t quite what I expected, but I’m ok. I don’t need anything.” The first person got the food he wanted, but the second person got his meal free and a free dessert. What was the difference? Their attitude. The first person didn’t consider the waitress’s feelings, the second person did. The first person got food, the second person got free food. Which person would you have been?

III. DISRESPECT ISN’T GOD’S IDEA!

Ephesians 4:29 says: “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.” What does that sound like to you? Does that sound like respect? Respect is considering other’s feelings. Wouldn’t you build someone up according to his need if you respected him? What about unwholesome talk? Isn’t disrespect and name-calling a part of that? I think so. The word says don’t let any of that junk come out of your mouths. Everything you say should be positive. You shouldn’t be cutting on anybody. You shouldn’t be putting anybody down. You shouldn’t be doing it when they’re around and you shouldn’t do it when they’re nowhere to be found. What this all boils down to is – respect. When you’re slamming on somebody, what you’re saying to them is, “I don’t care about you or your feelings. I have not consideration for you.”

IV. RESPECT EVERYONE!

1 Peter 2:17 “Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God. Show respect for the king.” Who are you supposed to respect? Everybody!

Does that include your teacher? What about your mom and dad? And your brothers and sisters? What about the person sitting next to you? Look at your neighbor and say, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T, you gotta give some to me." Who else does that include? Does that include your pastor? What about your youth pastor? Just in case you think it doesn't include your youth pastor, look at 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (MSG) "And now friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work hard for you, who have been given responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love." That means to show respect to everyone who tries to help you be a better person. That means to respect anyone who is speaking on this stage. That means that when they talk, you don't. When they talk you listen, and don't make fun of them, whether it be me, Bro. Richard, Bro. Jeremy, Tim, or any of yal'll up here talking, maybe for the offering. Whoever is up here leading any time during the service, yuou are supposed to show respect for them, especially during the message.

CONCLUSION:

In today's society.....young people....old people....middled age people....more people need to show more respect. All people need to show respect. Let's act in the word and show respect for everyone we come in contact with.

PRAYER

R-E-S-P-E-C-T – PowerPoint Sheet
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"Attitude Series" – Bro. Shane, Minister to Students
1 Peter 2:17 NKJV

I. _____ --- WHAT DOES _____ MEAN _____?

What does respect mean to you? _____

Respect means to: _____

II. WHAT _____ COMES _____!

Scripture References: II. Cor. 9:16; Matthew 7:12

III. _____ ISN'T GOD'S _____!

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:29

IV. _____!

Scripture References: 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Thes 5:12

NOTES: _____

PRAYER REQUEST: _____