



THE LOVE CHALLENGE
Part 6 – Love Respects Others
I Corinthians 13:1-5

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I Peter 2:17 "Show respect to everyone."

Everyone means our kids, our parents, our spouse, people at work, people we don't even know, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, atheists, people who have different views about issues, people who live their lives differently, people of different races, people of different religions, **IRS** agents, people who root for the **wrong** college football teams – everyone.

I. HOW TO IMPROVE IN GIVING AND GETTING RESPECT.

A. Develop a "God -View**" of people.**

Psalm 8:5 "For you made man only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor."

Every person is GOD'S **creation** and is to be treated accordingly.

Matthew 25: 35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? **39** And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? **40** And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least person, you did it to me.'

B. How well we show respect toward others **reveals** who we are on the inside.

1. How we treat others tells them something about **our** relationship with God.

1 John 4:8 (NIV) "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

2. How we treat others tells them something about our **maturity** .

Luke 6:27, 28, 31, 35, 36 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **35**... Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

C. Develop the **art of tact**.

Proverbs 15:23, 28 "Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time! (28) The godly think before speaking; the wicked spout evil words."

Proverbs 15:4 "Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit."

What to ask ourselves before we "let someone have it":

1. Why am I saying this? Am I going to be frank with this person to demean them?
2. Am I about to say this because it makes me feel better by putting them down?
3. Is what I'm about to say going to build up the relationship or tear it down? What is the motive?

D. Respect is **disagreeing** without being **disagreeable**.

Romans 12:17-21 “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath {of God,} for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

On **Essentials** there must be unity.

On Non-Essentials there must be liberty.

On **All** things there must be **charity**.

E. Love and lead others to Christ with a **gentle** and patient spirit.

Colossians 4:5-6 “Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone.”

1 Peter 3:15 "If anyone asks you why you believe as you do be ready to tell them and do it in a gentle and respectful way."

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Notes:
