



Part 5 – Put Others First: The Art of Respect
1 Peter 2:17

Pastor Mark Hartman
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I. INTRODUCTION

*1 Peter 2:17 "Show respect to **everyone**."*

God expects every member of the family to treat every member of the family **respectfully**.

It changes how we **speak** to each other, how we treat each other, how we work through big challenges we face with each other.

II. HOW DO WE IMPROVE OUR "RESPECT QUOTIENT"?

A. See people as **God** sees them.

1. *Psalm 8:5 "For You made people only a little lower than God, and You crowned us with glory and honor."*
2. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the **world** (the people of the world) that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."*

3. *1 Timothy 2:4-6 “God desires **all** people to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; ⁶ Who gave Himself a ransom for **all**...”*
4. He loves every person. God sees others as people of **worth** so much His Son died for them just as much as He died for you and me.
5. *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. View respect as an **investment.**

1. *Luke 6:38 “Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”*
2. *2 Corinthians 9:6 “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”*
3. Be careful how you treat people on the way **up**, you may meet them again on the way back down.
4. *Proverbs 11:17 “You do yourself a favor when you are kind.”*

C. See respecting others as a way of respecting **yourself.**

1. How I treat others tells them something about my relationship with **God**.
1 John 4:8 “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
2. *Luke 6:27, 28, 31, 35 “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 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be **sons** of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”*

D. Develop the art of **discretion**.

1. Discretion is saying the right thing at the right **time**.
2. *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.”
3. Definitions of discretion:
 - a. Discretion is what you thought but were wise enough not to **say**.
 - b. Discretion is the ability to make a point without making an enemy.
 - c. Discretion is changing the subject without changing your **mind**.
4. *Proverbs 15:4* “Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit.”

E. Learn how to disagree **without** being disagreeable.

1. *Romans 12:17, 18, 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. 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**.

2. *John 17:20-22* “My prayer is... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one...”

III. HOW DO WE **EARN** THE RESPECT OF OTHERS?

- A. *Proverbs 22:1* “A good reputation is a better choice than riches. **Respect** is more valuable than money.”
- B. Be a person of **dependable** Christ-like character.

Proverbs 21:21 “The person who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and respect.”

C. Be a person who loves others and lives a life God calls **right** and people will respect you.

D. Be a generous person of **kindness**.

*Psalm 112:9 "He who gives generously to the needy and shows kindness will be powerful and **respected**."*

E. Be a person of **humility**.

*Romans 12:3 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with **sober judgment**, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
(NIV)*

*Proverbs 29:23 "Arrogance will bring your downfall but if you are humble you will be **respected**."*

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