



Part 9 – Earn the Respect of Others Proverbs

Pastor Mark Hartman
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*Proverbs 22:1 “A good **reputation** is a better choice than riches. Respect is more valuable than money.”*

I. DEVELOP **CONVICTIONS** THAT DEMONSTRATE CHARACTER.

A. Character is the kind of person you **are** on the inside.

*Proverbs 1:1-3 “These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David’s son, Israel’s king— ² Written down so we’ll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it’s going; ³ A manual for living, for learning what’s **right** and **just** and **fair**...”*

1. Character Counts (charactercounts.org), there are six basic pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.
2. If character is the destination then **conviction** is the fuel that gets us there.

B. Convictions are the **beliefs** that shape our behavior.

The people who have made the greatest impact in this world for good or bad were those with the **deepest** convictions.

1. **Mark 6:20** “And Herod **respected** John, knowing that he was a good and holy man, and so he kept him under his protection. Herod was disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so he liked to listen to him.”
2. **Proverbs 16:7** “When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” (AMP)
3. **Proverbs 21:21** “He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and **respect**.”

C. How do you grow character?

Decide that Godly character will be the **hallmark** of your life.

1. **Ephesians 2:8-9** “God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is **not** a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” (NLT)
2. **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the **good things** he planned for us long ago.” (NLT)
3. Begin **developing** character.
 - a. **Timothy 4:7** “...train yourself to be godly.”
 - b. **Daniel 1:8** “But Daniel **resolved** not to defile himself...”

It does not mean a spur of the moment emotional decision. The word in the Hebrew means “putting strands together.” (Show a piece of rope.)

- c. We train ourselves to be godly by reading the Bible, paying close attention to what it says, and living out the principles of what God says is right and wrong.
4. Expect your character to be **tested**.

What if I fail a test? Admit it, pick yourself up and get going again. Don't quit!

5. Stay with your convictions no matter what they **cost** you.

II. LIVE YOUR LIFE TO BENEFIT **OTHERS**.

- A. *Proverbs 14:22* “You will earn the trust and **respect** of others if you work for good.” (TEV)
- B. *Matthew 20:26-28* “Whoever wants to be great must become a **servant**.²⁷ Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.²⁸ That is what the Son of Man (Jesus) has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life...” (MSG)
 - 1. Have a purpose greater than **yourself**.
 - 2. We can’t serve God without serving **people**.
- C. When ordinary people are committed to great causes it brings the **greatness** out in their lives.

Matthew 10:39 “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for MY sake will find it.” (NIV)

- D. Find the things God has gifted you to do. Find the things you love to do, that you have a passion for; find what ministry **need** you could fill and then give yourself away.
- E. *Psalms 112:9* “He who gives generously to the needy and shows kindness will be powerful and **respected**.”

III. COMBINE SUCCESS WITH **HUMILITY**.

- A. *Proverbs 29:23* *Arrogance will bring your downfall but if you are humble you will be respected.*
- B. *Proverbs 11:2* - “When pride comes, then comes dishonor.”
- C. *Proverbs 29:23* “A person’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain **honor**.”

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Notes:
