

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

Dec. 12, 2017

Issue No. 327

Respect

"As you get older you start to see who was raised properly. So many people lack basic respect." – unknown

"A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone." – Billy Graham

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." – Bryant H. McGill

"We will not agree with everyone, but we should most definitely respect one another. Respect is essential in all forms of communication." – Brooke Griffin

"Respect, to get it, we must give it." – unknown

Respect is one of the more allusive topics of our time. If we were to ask a question as to what is one of more popular problems of our day? we would have to list disrespect.

Respect has been defined, "Esteem for or a sense of worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability" (Dictionary.com)

The word "respect" is found 17 times in Scripture. The very first occasion was in regard to the sacrifices of Cain and Abel before God. "Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell" (Gen. 4:4-5). Cain brought a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith (Heb. 11:4), and Cain did not. Scripture says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). It seems clear that Abel followed God's directions and Cain did not.

"Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" (Psa. 40:4). There are certain people not worthy of our trust, and we must not respect their evil intentions.

In the New Testament we learn of Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who had the respect of the people (Acts 5:34). Obviously, the Jews held him in high esteem.

Respect embraces ourselves as well as our actions. It can be quite harmful to the body of Christ when we are people that cause others to disrespect us.

In 2 Cor. 3:2-3, Paul referenced us as letters; letters that are known and read by all men. When people look upon you, do you earn their respect? Do they see you as a true epistle of Christ?