

GOD'S ANSWERS TO LIFE'S DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Bible Class Series

HOW CAN I LIVE ABOVE AVERAGE?

INTRODUCTION

God wants us to develop some qualities that will create a good name. We all want to be respected. We all want to live above average. So what kind of name are you making for yourself?

Proverbs 22:1 (NIV)

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 (TLB)

1 A good reputation is more valuable than the most expensive perfume...

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "...The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

HOW TO EARN RESPECT

1. Respect is earned through Integrity

Proverbs 17:7 (GNT)

7 Respected people do not tell lies...

Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

2. Respect is earned through Humility

Proverbs 29:23 (GNT)

3 Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected.

1 Peter 5:5 (NIV)

5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Proverbs 15:33 (NIV)

33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)

18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 13:18 (GNT)

Someone who will not learn will be poor and disgraced. Anyone who listens to correction is respected.

3. Respect is earned through Dependability

Proverbs 25:14 (NIV)

14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give.

Psalms 15:4-5 (NIV)

4 ...who keeps his oath even when it hurts, 5 ...He who does these things will never be shaken.

4. Respect is earned through living by Priorities

Proverbs 11:27 (GNT)

If your goals are good, you will be respected, but if you are looking for trouble, that is what you will get.

Proverbs 14:22 (GNT)

You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good; if you work for evil, you are making a mistake.

5. Respect is earned through Generosity

Psalms 112:9 (GNT)

He gives generously to the needy, and his kindness never fails; he will be powerful and respected.

6. Respect is earned through Spirituality

Proverbs 3:4-6 (TLB)

4 If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. 6 In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

Proverbs 10:7 (GNT)

Good people will be remembered as a blessing, but the wicked will soon be forgotten.