

June 17, 2018
BUILDING SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS – Part 5
“Respect”

Dads really do matter in the lives of their kids, even though dads sometimes don't get much respect.

Issues of respect are as old as humanity itself.

Romans 13:7 (NIV): “Give everyone what you owe him: ...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

Respect for others is ultimately grounded in the value God sees in every person.

Genesis 1:27,31 (NLT): “²⁷So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.... ³¹Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!...”

God created you, and He said His creation of us was “very good!”

Psalms 8:3-6 (ESV): “³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet”

The Bible is filled with examples of how much God thinks of you and every single person on this planet.

Sin entered the picture, and we all came under its influence, separating ourselves from God and marring the magnificence of His wondrous creation.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT): “⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Christ did it all on the cross for us, so we're in no position to brag or hold ourselves up as better or more significant to God than any other person.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT): “⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good

things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For 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."

We're all wonderfully made in God's image but devastated by the power and ugliness of sin, and we're all alike offered the gift of God's salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

Respect is honoring a person's value in God's eyes!

We all like to be around people who treat us with respect.

If I realize that my Creator's opinion is the only one that matters, then I can see the value God has placed on not only me but every single person, and I honor that in them through my respect.

Exodus 20:12 (ESV): "'Honor your father and your mother....'"

"Hurting people hurt people" - when we get past a person's defenses, we typically find some kind of adversity in their life that helps us understand why they act the way they do.

1 Peter 2:17 (NIV): "Show proper respect to everyone..."

Ultimately, people, regardless of what they believe, are not our enemies.

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV): "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Jesus: "'...[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.'" (John 8:44 NLT)

Respect is a gift we can offer to anyone around us that can dramatically impact any relationship we have.

Offering respect can profoundly impact how others see themselves, that they're not what society or others say they are, but they are wondrous creations of God.

Want to go deeper - Check out "Building Successful Relationships" by Michael and Laura Fletcher on RightNow Media (www.gateway-community.org/find-it/).

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at gateway-community.org/Find-it

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Onscreen Notes

Video – Rodney Dangerfield: “I don’t get no respect!”

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