

The act of showing respect has become somewhat of an endangered characteristic. Just turn on the TV and you'll see the growing lack of respect. The "Father Knows Best" theme has changed to a portrayal of the father as a blundering character often disrespected. However, the Bible states that respect is for all - parents, people in authority, church leaders, spouses, and everyone else for that matter! This week, Pastor Sharon and Pastor John spoke about respect in their sermon "FATHER'S DAY: Showing Respect," which is Part 5 of the six-part series "Vineyard Values."

You should treat everyone with respect because God made everyone. When a person does wrong, it is not because God made a mistake, but rather because that person chose their actions. God creates each person "special" and never makes "junk"! The wrong that a person does is washed away through faith in Jesus who died for everybody and paid the penalty. The Bible says, "God paid a ransom to save you. He paid for you with the precious life-blood of Christ" 1 Peter 1:17-19 (LB). Because of what Jesus did, you should be able to look upon people in the same manner as the Father. Dr. Dobson demonstrated this when he stated that Ted Bundy was forgiven, even after all the terrible things he had done, simply because he had put his faith in Jesus.

When you treat others with respect, it shows you know God. Your biggest test in demonstrating the love of God will most likely be tested in your relationships with people. When you show consideration for others, you demonstrate your relationship with the Father. In turn, you receive the blessing and get back what you give out. This is often referred to as the "what goes around comes around" concept. Gal. 6:7 (Ph) says, "A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows." You should smile if you want to be smiled at, and you should show respect if you want respect.

You can show respect to others in a few ways. Be tactful and not just truthful in your interaction with people. Pastor John shared a story about how he was able to receive advice from a church elder because of the tactful manner in which it was given. You should also strive to be understanding and not demanding when you are served. Doing this will help you to be sensitive to the needs of others and possibly minister to them. When people disagree with you, be gentle and not judgmental. The Bible says, "Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on each other" Rom. 14:12 (NIV). When people are rude to you, respond politely. Pastor Sharon shared a story of how she was able to calm an angry lady at a store simply by being polite. With others watching, her actions were a testimony to God's love.

Respect begins in the home. The Bible says, "Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life" Ex. 20:12 (LB). The Bible does not make distinctions to honor only those parents that are the best, but to honor all parents because that is what God expects. God is a loving Father who wants you to demonstrate His love to others by treating them with respect. Do you see any areas where you can improve in showing respect?