



## Outer Growth - Respect

**Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.**

*Matthew 7:12*

**Reliance** ----- Hebrews 10:22

**Eyes** -----Matthew 6:22

**Serve** ----- Galatians 6:10

**Participate** ----- Acts 20:35

**Ears** ----- Matthew 11:15

**Communicate** - Hebrews 13:16

**Tolerate** -----Proverbs 15:18

Respect is about how we respond to others. In terms of people, it is a way of treating or thinking about someone. There is a phrase, 'show some respect' that would come into an argument or a disagreement between individuals. Why? Pride. No one wants to be first to give an inch to another. Few are willing to make the first gesture of showing signs of care toward others. Many people will declare they are a good person and love everybody, but when it is time to put that into practice, they will find they struggle to muster up a welcoming smile.

*In Matthew of the New Testament, the first part in verse twelve of chapter seven outlines what we should do to others. Treat them the same way we would desire. However, there is the opposite to consider. The warning of "don't do to anyone what you would not want doing to you." In most cases, this implies that one ought not to harm means not to do evil. God expects us to pursue what we would like to see from others.*

Respect is having confidence in God and care by demonstrating that in others. The dependence upon the one above enables us to make a difference in another. As believers, we should serve God in love, which means to help bring encouragement to others. A smile, a warm greeting may make a person's day different than what they might have anticipated. Gestures of that nature will continue to attract others and may aid them to adopt the same approach.

*Respect is an evaluation that begins with the eyes. The public is the opposition that will approve and disapprove of someone from their visual perspective. What people see before them will interpret what they will believe. As believers or followers of Christ, our conduct will raise questions by society based on our actions. The eyes are the link that will generate the minds and thoughts of the social world.*

Respect is the opportunity to serve. The chance to impact others we encounter is an investment that will pay off now and in the future. The Son of God made an impact by engaging with people. He spoke to the fishermen by the sea of Galilee, and they followed Him. Jesus went out of His way and made time for them, and in return, the gesture returns by the fishermen making time for Him. *Respect is giving. For anyone to gain it, individuals must be first to show it. What we put in is what we will get out of it. Jesus went first to the fishermen and converse with them. He did not hesitate or wait for someone to pass Him by but went out there and took the initiative. Jesus' activity created a reaction from these men to follow Him. He made the time and the effort to reach out to others with them in mind.*

Respect is the evaluation that includes listening with the ears. There is an old phrase that 'looks can be deceiving.' Appearances can be deceiving. However, a person speaks, it comes from the heart as we listen. Conflict with respect involved arises when someone is not paying attention to what the other is saying, and the breakdown starts from there. It is easier to talk than it is to listen.

*Respect is doing good in our communicating with others. How often have we experienced conflict with another person that results in a misunderstanding? A misunderstanding is a wrong idea in a conversation that results in an argument or fight. There are many relationships severed because of this problem. No one wants to listen. Everyone wants to let out everything they have to say and does not want to hear the feedback. To make a sincere effort to understand the speaker is by being a careful listener. Paying attention to the details and not being halfway hearers where someone is still talking. Halfway hearers are people who listen at the beginning of each speaker's feedback and assume the rest instead of listening until their done. On the other hand, some full-time speakers will go on and on without giving the listener time to respond.*

Respect is a person that will choose not to engage in a potential conflict but elect to disengage. Someone could be having a bad day and decides to find an outlet which happens to be you. We know it is wrong for someone to bring such an attitude, and we did nothing to set it off. However, should we have allowed such behavior to continue without a cause on our part? No, the best thing about it is we can be a helper, not a retaliator.

Therefore, that person will think twice before attempting to do it again towards you.

*Respect is about how should we respond to others. To show it will take patience and effort. To have respect starts with giving it. To make a difference with people in our community will be a life challenge in itself. The feedback of respecting others may not create change before us overnight but will begin in the people we encounter. They may not show it, but eventually, we will know it.*

