



Building blocks for good relationships | Building block 2 - Respect

What is respect?

Heb 12: 9

The word respect has often been translated to honor and to revere. It's easy to have respect for someone who has done something special. For example, a mountaineer who has reached the highest mountain peak or a cyclist who has won the world title. But also a chemist who has developed a medicine against a deadly disease.

Another reason to honor someone is because of his or her position. You respect a judge, president, but also, for example, as our text says, your father.

Sow

Gal 6: 7

If you love and respect someone, they will usually show you respect too.

Once upon a time, a pastor saw many problems with the couples in his church. He announced a marriage seminar saying, "How is a man treated as a king by his wife?"

The answer came in the seminar. "Treat your wife like a queen!"

When you live in the Kingdom of God, sow respect. Give honor to people. Look at little things that people around you do well and give honor to them. Say what you respect. God is love and very practically that love will come to us when we experience respect and show respect to others.

Something that struck me during my many travels in the Middle East is that people from other countries are treated differently. One day I went to a restaurant with a friend from an Arab country. The servants were regularly snubbed by him. This surprised me because this person came across as very friendly. We got into a discussion about this and it soon became apparent that he did not treat his servants with respect because they were different than himself.

In another Arab country I went to a restaurant with a South African. He greeted each of the personnel with a smile and showed respect to the servants. Remarkably, the servants approached him not only politely, as they were trained, but with a sincerity of heart to truly serve this man, with big smiles on their faces.

Outside - inside

Jam 2: 1-5

John 4: 5-9

The Kingdom of God has a culture of respect. Jesus was an example of this. He paid respect to a Samaritan, an outcast, who was also a woman and was even known as an adulterer. Jesus did not show in His conversation that he would look down on her. That's what you do when you don't show respect, you look down on someone and elevate yourself.

James also speaks about the outside and the inside. You should not favor or give more credit to people who look good and are rich. Respect all people.

Who should we respect?

- *1 Cor 12:26* (other members of the body of Christ, the church)
- *Eph 6: 5* (our superiors)
- *1 Thess 5: 12,13* (those who guide us and correct us)
- *1 Pet 3: 7* (treat your women with respect)

When you read the letters of the apostles, you will find many admonitions to respect, honor, encourage others, value others above yourself. This creates a positive atmosphere.





You can choose to build such a culture in your marriage, your church, your work, and your country. You can accept differences, instead of believing that your thoughts as the most important.

Practical steps:

DO NOT

make fun of, communicate guilt, judge, or gossip.

DO WELL

Really listen, appreciate each other, be real, have an eye for each other, look positively at the other, and help to build that culture of respect.

YOU CAN CHOOSE THIS.

GROUP EXERCISE:



First write down for yourself who you want to show respect to in your family, your work (or study), your municipality and why.

Do you think positively about yourself, can you respect yourself? If so, why, if not, why not?



Discuss with each other in the group what you can do and what you can change in your family, church or work with a respectful attitude. Are there any obstacles and how do you remove them?