

Teaching Kids Respect

Parenting 101—part 3

Ephesians 6:2; 1 Peter 2:17

November 20 2022

Mark Twain was once asked his advice on raising a teenage son. “I suggest,” said Twain, “that when he reaches his fifteenth birthday that you put him in whiskey barrel, hammer the lid shut, and feed him through the little hole in the side. When he reaches sixteen, plug the hole!”

Training a child, from the earliest age through the teen years is a massive undertaking.

DAY 1: Shaping children’s character and attitudes

1. We’ve previously looked at the challenge of shaping children’s behavior. Even more challenging is shaping a child’s character and attitudes.
2. We’ve looked at the need for children to learn to obey their parents, the law, the police, their teachers, etc. This is learning to **restrain their actions**, going from folly to wisdom.
3. This week we address the need for children to learn to **restrain their attitudes**.

*Ephesians 6:2 “**Honor** your father and mother” - which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

*1 Peter 2:17 **Show proper respect to everyone**, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

4. Life is designed with a moral framework. People can’t just do whatever they want or whatever feels good and expect the long-term consequences to just disappear.

5. When children do not learn the importance of being respectful, and develop habits of habitually being disrespectful, their future will be checkered with some undue consequences, some of which this child, now adult, may never have the eyes to see. Here are some examples:

- How does your teenage driver react when he is pulled over by the police?
- How does your son react when the coach won’t play him as often as he thinks he deserves?
- How does your young adult daughter react when she is reprimanded at work by her boss?

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 2: Train respect; give them “pictures”

1. There are seven principles that are important in shaping children’s character and attitudes. These seven principles are not a magic wand that guarantee the outcome for which you hope. They are more like road signs that keep pointing you in the right direction. To implement these principles takes God’s wisdom, prayer, intentionality, and persistence.

Principle #1: Respect must be expected.

Eph. 6:2 “Honor your father and mother”

2. “Honor” – means to respect, esteem, value, or revere

→ Paul is talking about our attitude toward authority.

Mark 7:6-7 “This people honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”

3. Jesus uses the same Greek word for honor, as Paul did in Ephesians 6:2.

4. Notice, Jesus says it is possible to be honor someone with our words, but it is quite another thing to honor someone in our heart!

Principle #2: Example: demonstrate a respectful attitude.

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be **upon your hearts**. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

5. Moses tells us parenting starts with parental example. Your children will learn more from your example than you imagine. How do you talk about the government? Police? Your boss at work? A pastor?

6. When children are two and three years old, their disrespectful attitude can look “cute” to parents. When they get a little older they’ll gravitate to “boss.”

7. With toddlers you have to visualize the word for them with your facial expressions and tone of voice.

Philippians 4:9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Facial expressions & tone of voice demonstrate attitude.

Mirror their face and tone. Give visual face & tone.

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Show proper respect; face consequences

Principle #3: Show respect toward people & position.

*1 Peter 2:17 **Show proper respect to everyone**, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

1. There are times when it is incredibly difficult to respect a particular person in authority. In those situations, we respect the position of authority.
2. There are times when a child, a teenager, or an adult disagrees with someone in authority. What should be done? There are times when the authority (a teacher, a boss, a policeman, etc.) has already decided something. During those times, it is important to follow the leader.
3. There are other times when you can appeal to authority. You need wisdom regarding wording, timing, and to think through your “relational impact” (Your non-verbals, tone, facial expression, etc.). If you are going to appeal to authority it must be done respectfully. (See Daniel’s example in Daniel 2).
4. Just because a child, student, or employee thinks they are being respectful does not mean that their parent, teacher, or boss thinks they are being respectful. You are training them that the metric is the authority, not themselves.
5. Teaching kids respect is hugely important if they get married!

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect.

Ephesians 5:33 ... the wife must respect her husband.

Principle #4: Painful consequences when they are disrespectful.

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

6. (We looked at the issue of spanking last week. If you have questions about spanking, look back at last week’s devotions and Sunday message)

Suggestion: “If you are disrespectful, you are choosing a spanking/ grounding.”

1 Samuel 3:13 “For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.”

7. Whatever consequences you give your children, they are useless unless they are painful. In addition to spanking, you can remove favorite toys, (video games, phones, car privileges,) leave a favorite place, and add a chore or responsibility.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Humility's two friends: an ear and a confession

Principle #5: Ear: lend it.

1. One very important and “simple” way to communicate respect and honor is by listening!
2. For each of the following verses, what is one way that respect is communicated?

Proverbs 18:13 If anyone gives answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Proverbs 10:19 When words are many transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 15:26 The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the fool blurts out folly.

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

Principle #6: Confess when you're wrong.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

3. Children don't just learn through our “perfect” example. They also learn from our failures. When you are disrespectful toward anyone, confess your sin in front of your children.
4. You will be teaching your children that respect has to be displayed in our everyday lives, whether through our positive example or negative example.
5. You are also “teaching” children that asking forgiveness for when we do wrong needs to be a way of life!
6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: The surprising benefits of respecting authority

Principle #7: Tell the benefits of respect.

*Eph. 6:2 “Honor your father and mother” - which is the first commandment with a promise—
“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

1. Paul quotes this command and promise from the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

2. This is more than a promise to individuals. It is a statement of how crucial this attitude of respect is to a society and a nation. The long-term health of a nation is the respect people show to authority and to one another.

3. Where is that first learned? In the home!

4. Being respectful creates good will.

Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

5. Parents, it is crucial that your children learn to control, not only their actions but their attitudes. You want them to make their mistakes in these two arenas while they are under your care. You don't want them to have to learn these things the hard way.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

This attitude is a key component to living a full, satisfying life.