



# GOOD NEWS GUIDE

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

February, 2018

## Respect

Respect is something we all care about. It's something our spirits need, in the same way our bodies need nourishment. Getting too little respect is like being starved; getting too much respect is like eating way more food than you need. Both are unhealthy.

Let's consider three aspects of respect:

1. Respect for others
2. Respect for yourself
3. Respect for God.

What does it mean to respect someone? Forget the dictionary definitions; you know from experience what it means. It means that he or she is worthwhile in your eyes. Worth listening to; worth working with or working for, worth spending time to help or teach or encourage, if any of those is appropriate. And not only thinking it, but also showing it by your actions and words. That's respect.

Respect is vital in any healthy relationship. Mutual respect is the glue that holds marriages and families and friendships together. Respect is not the same thing as love, but it is an important element of it. You can act loving toward someone you don't respect; you can feel pity or compassion, or even admiration or envy, toward him or her; but without respect there can be no real bonding, no investing of yourself in the other.

God's word has a lot to say on this subject. It uses the word "respect" in this way fewer than 20 times, but it also uses the word "honor" a lot—for example, "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). "Honor," used in this way, means to have respect, and to show that respect by your actions and words.

### Getting Respect

#### How can you get the respect you deserve?

Wrong question! If that's the way you look at things, then chances are you are already getting the respect you deserve, which may not be very much. Let's change the question:

#### How can you get the respect you need?

There are three ways to gain someone's respect:

1. Automatically (subject to later review)

2. By being respectable
3. By being respectful.

The first way depends on the other person being willing to give you the benefit of the doubt. Many people will do that. Others will not, perhaps because of your skin color or where you came from, or where you did or didn't go to college, or the fact that you have been an inmate. Forget these latter folks—it doesn't matter at all what they think.

If you want thinking people to respect you, the best way to achieve that is to be respectable. And the best way to be respectable, in my opinion, is to let God's Holy Spirit develop in you the character of Jesus, a.k.a. the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self control

Is that too general a statement? I don't mean it to be. Look at each of these nine attributes and see it as something that can be developed or improved, with the Holy Spirit's help, in your life:

- **Love.** Practice being unselfish, rather than selfish. Be a giver rather than a taker,
- **Joy:** Smile, rather than frown. Be slow to complain or condemn; quick to forgive.
- **Peace.** Be as agreeable as possible. Don't start or prolong a fight.
- **Patience.** Don't demand or expect to get what you want immediately. Ease up.
- **Kindness.** Do and say whatever will help; discard anything that might hurt.
- **Goodness.** Stick with whatever is good and true; run far away from whatever is evil and false. You do know the difference.
- **Faithfulness.** Don't say it if you don't mean it. If you promise to do something, do it! Be dependable.
- **Gentleness.** Be strong, stable, a haven of safety and healing and peace; rather than powerful and violent and destructive.
- **Self control.** There are two big areas to work on here: addictive behavior and temper. Place both securely under God's control—He can do it, and with His help you can be the master, rather than the slave, of your inclinations.

In life there is a principle of reflection. Try this: look in a mirror and smile. What do you see? You see a smiling face. Now frown, and a frown is reflected. In fact, the way you act toward others often has a lot to do with the way they act toward you. In particular, if you are respectful of others, that goes a long way toward their respecting you in return.

Jesus said, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them...." (Matthew 7:12 – the "Golden Rule") This is meant to be a guide for your behavior, but it also involves the principle of reflection—if you do good to others (by respecting them), they are more likely to do the same to you.

**Do to others  
as you would  
have them do  
to you.**

## Self-Respect

Self-respect is a little more difficult than respect for or from others. The problem is that we know too much about ourselves—or at least we think we do. But if early life has drilled into your mind the idea that you are worthless, that is hard to overcome. So much early learning depends on wise and loving father and mother, because both contribute in major ways to a child's view of himself or herself. And so many of us today, so very many of us, never had two wise and loving parents; maybe never even had one.

If you are loved early in life, you learn that you are lovable. If you receive loving discipline, you come to understand where the boundaries of acceptable behavior are. If you are raised with respect, you will know that you are respectable, and you will have a healthy respect for yourself. But if you lacked these early blessings, all of those vital lessons have to be learned later in life—often in the "school of hard knocks."

If this describes you, then you are handicapped. Your self-respect never had any nourishment, so it never flourished. But there is good news, in two ways.

First is the fact that God loves you. I mean He really loves you. He made you in His own image, and He cares about you, in spite of anything you ever did or didn't do, God loves you. His Son came to earth as a man and He died so that all of our sins, yours and mine—our thoughtlessness, our cruelty, our mess-ups, our selfish acts, even our disrespect for Him—all of that garbage could be washed away, forgiven

and forgotten forever. That's how much you are worth to Him. God really, really loves you.

The second path to self-respect is what I explained above. If you want to come to respect yourself, the way to do it is to become respectable, and act respectfully toward yourself. Don't get down on yourself or call yourself names. If you make a mistake, forgive yourself and resolve not to do it again. It may not be easy to overcome all of the past, but with God's help everything is possible.

## Respect for God

Why should we respect God? First of all, because He demands it and commands it "I am the Lord your God ... you shall have no other gods before me." He is God; there is no other, and He makes no bones about letting us mere creatures know that.

Secondly, because He deserves all of our respect. He is infinitely good, infinitely wise, infinitely powerful—what's not to respect? To fail to give Him the respect that we owe to Him is to be ignorant, or stupid, or both.

The Bible says that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). "Fear" here doesn't mean that we are to be afraid of Him—unless we disrespect Him; unless we set ourselves up in opposition to Him in the god business. Then we had better be afraid, because that kind of activity leads to strong and painful correction.

But really, God is not standing by with a giant flyswatter to smash us if we offend Him. He would much rather that we would respect Him. Look at this verse: *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (Micah 6:8) All He asks of us, I believe, is that we accept Him, and our relationship with Him, on His terms.



**All honor, glory, and respect are Yours, O LORD, our God, our Savior, our Peace, our Joy, our health—our everything!**

In Jesus' name. God bless you all!

*Brother Roland*

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Questions about the Bible or the Christian life? Write to me and I'll try to help, and maybe your question will be a blessing to someone else. Write to Brother Roland, PO Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222.

## Bible Study Correspondence Courses

Inmates often ask me, "Do you have a list of places where I can get Bible Study courses?" I did not have such a list, but now, thanks to a helpful website and some research, I do. I believe any inmate can write to any of these organizations and request free Bible study lessons by mail. If anyone wants to give me feedback on any of these, or suggest others that should be added to the list, please write and tell me. Thanks. Brother Roland, PO BOX 14, FAYETTEVILLE PA 17222.

Bible Studies by Mail  
P.O. Box 2077  
Las Cruces NM 88004

Bible Corresp.School of the Caribbean  
Calvary Evangelistic Mission, Inc.  
1409 Ave. Ponce De Leon 4th Floor  
San Juan PR 00907

Crossroads Prison Ministries  
PO Box 900  
Grand Rapids MI 49509-0900

Crusaders Club International  
P.O. Box 547  
Carmel IN 46082

Emmaus International  
PO Box 1028  
Dubuque IA 52004-1028

Exodus Prison Ministry  
4243 34th St  
Lubbock TX 79410

Follow Up Ministries Int'l.  
PO Box 2514  
Castro Valley CA 94546

Hope Aglow Ministries, Inc.  
PO Box 10157  
Lynchburg VA 24506

Israel's Hope, Inc.  
PO Box 724  
Nyack NY 10960

King James Bible Study  
5311 Windridge lane  
Lockhart Florida 32810

Lamp and Light Publishers  
26 Road 5577  
Farmington NM 87401

Little Lambs Inc.  
710 S. Eucalyptus St.  
Sebring, FL 33870

Mount Hope Prison Ministry  
25 Summit Avenue  
Hagerstown MD 21740

Mount Zion Bible Institute  
Chapel Library  
2603 West Wright St  
Pensacola FL 32505

Bible Study  
c/o Victory Baptist Church  
PO Box 100  
Roan Mountain TN 37687

Ron Thompson Jail & Prison Ministry  
P.O. Box 618477  
Orlando FL 32861

Saints Prison Ministry  
PO Box 681  
Moorestown NJ 08057

Set Free Prison Ministries  
PO Box 5440  
Riverside CA 92517

United Prison Ministries International  
PO Box 8  
Verbena AL 36091

World Bible School  
PO Box 2169  
Cedar Park TX 78630

## Honor and Respect

Here are words and phrases taken from various Bible passages that have to do with respect and honor, or in some cases the lack of respect and honor.

### Puzzle:

H V S Y L Q A A A A Z Z P I V U S U N J U S T J U D G E H D  
A P S D Z A V G Z Z H T A U J W K T Q H F Y L E H K G N O N  
Y E E I R Z R V R D M C K N I O E H S L O R J M G K D G L S  
P U N S N O Q H M A E D M E H C E H S O X T R R L O R R C S  
Q A S T O E L X T D C N A H N L F P N V H E G O G O P W E Q  
Y V U U I J P E R A G I R N P H W A N P T F G F N U K V H D  
X F O B X T Y O H B M R O A I L P R W S L W O O L E I B O L  
W N E S Y E M T S T E I O U E E A W A H S N H D S W N X E S  
R V T Z S W G S X A F E R A S Z L M L G A O L T R O Z U Y J  
D C H E Z E K I A H K O R A Z W S R N M H V N X M O M T D A  
R X G Y T F I R Z H K S L A F I O I A W R A H O E A L G H Z  
A C I E V R S H V W I P N E H O K M E T V I L M S Z H E D M  
L W R N L B A C A N R D B S G F H S A R B O C Q I W R Q H R  
Z W S Y K D U D O X A E D J O N O P E N S Q E J W I M V O T  
K U E F M C E I E H Z R H S M H A S E T V E Y M E M J I M K  
G S U W T T T R C R A J R T T M A Y A S R X T Z R W C N R S  
L T S R M A T U S U S E D R O L E H T F O H C N A R B E H T  
J Z R M N Y B G G M T F K T L M P Q I F Z J X Q O Y R Y A A  
B A U W A E O O Q H N E R H B A D R Z K T X D S H I I A P B  
F Q P H N S H G G D L O I O H S D N A B S U H B W Y L R F R  
R W R O K W T U E N P S V S M G I Y A Z H I X G E A D D I D  
X N E O E M A E E Q G I O E J T J I P R V D G J S E R O H L  
D A V H W D I R R O D H L W M Z Y J Q L E N V T O S T W M U  
R Z E B A J T D D S E I Z H E S R R O U R H H M H Z M N H W  
T Q O K R H A L N J A B U O E X V O E A O P T A T A H E M W  
O U H Q E V Y U W K Q M G L U A X X C S W M H A M A Q R T D  
V G W P I O C B I B A N E A W E H D T G A C Z D F A J S X E  
A L O D N F D M F V S V H B A M W X R N Q G Y A Y W N S Z U  
G O X E L I A N D H I S S O N S L T C I W V I I U R V O N U  
R W S X N C T G C P N N N R C Z Z T P K Z X I E F Z W N P E

### Words:

A GRACIOUS WOMAN  
ALL HIS GODLY ONES  
A MAN OF GOD  
ANGEL OF THE LORD  
CHRIST  
DANIEL  
DAUGHTERS OF KINGS  
DAVID  
ELDERS  
ELIAKIM  
ELI AND HIS SONS  
FATHER AND MOTHER  
HAMAN  
HE WHO GUARDS HIS MASTER

HEZEKIAH  
HUSBANDS  
JABEZ  
JEHOSHAPHAT  
JOSEPH  
JOSEPH OF ARIMATHRA  
KING SAUL  
MASTERS  
MORDECAI  
NATION ISRAEL  
NEBUCHADNAZZAR  
SAMUEL  
SERVANTS  
SHECHEM

SOLOMON  
THE BRANCH OF THE LORD  
THE LORD OF HOSTS  
THE POOR  
THOSE WHO ARE WISE  
THOSE WHO HONOR GOD  
THOSE WHO LABOR  
TRADERS FROM TYRE  
UNJUST JUDGE  
VINEYARD OWNER'S SON  
WHOEVER PURSUES RIGHTEOUSNESS  
WIVES