

One of our deepest needs and desires is to be respected by others the question is how. How do gain credibility and the respect of others. Today we'll wrap up our pitfalls series and look at four things we need to earn the respect of others.

The Pitfall Of Disrespect

"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Proverbs 22:1 (NIV)

A Good Reputation Is Built On Not

How To Earn The Respect Of Others

1. Speak With _____

Respected people do not tell lies." Proverbs 17:7 (GN)

*"Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boast of gifts he does not give."
Proverbs 25:15 (GN)*

"The man of integrity walks securely." Proverbs 10:9 (GN)

2. Serve With _____

*"You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good."
Proverbs 14:22 (GN)*

*"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."
Matthew 20:28 (NIV)*

*"A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them ... the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."
Luke 22:24-27 (NIV)*

*"Who ever wants to become great among you must be your servant."
Mark 10:43 (NIV)*

*"If your goals are good you will be respected."
Proverbs 11:27 (GN)*

3. Share With _____

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”
Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

“He who gives generously to the needy and shows kindness will be powerful and respected.”
Psalms 112:9 (GN)

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”
Matthew 10:39 (NIV)

4. Succeed With _____

“Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected.”
Proverbs 29:23 (GN)

“Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.”
Proverbs 18:12 (NIV)

Stay _____ or you will _____

“Praise is the test of character.”
Proverbs 27:21 (NEB)

How Will You Be Remembered?

*“Good people will be remembered as a blessing,
but the wicked will soon be forgotten.”* Proverbs 10:7 (GN)

Character is always a matter of

Personal Study - Growth Homework

GETTING STARTED

Who is someone you have come to greatly respect? Why?

There was a time when a person's character was really important. Why do you think character has lost its importance in our society and world and how has the loss of character impacted our society?

If respect was easy more people would live a life of integrity and earn the respect of others. What's so hard about each of these four areas? Look again at the four character qualities we need to earn the respect of others. What are some of the barriers and difficulties we face when we choose & purpose to grow our character in each of these areas?

INTEGRITY

ENTHUSIASM

GENEROSITY

HUMILITY

What is the opposite of each of these and how do they impact our lives, the church, our purpose of reaching the lost as well as the reputation and effectiveness of the church?

Jesus' life was an example of serving and putting others first. The world's model is ... *"Me first - What can I get - What's in it for me?"* How has this "me first" attitude crept into the church – what does it look like in the church - what's the result and how do we fix it?

GOING DEEPER

In Mark 10:43 Jesus never said it was wrong to want to be great He just changed the path or process of how to get there. Do you think it's wrong to want or even pursue being great? What was Jesus' point?

Being generous is not just about money but how generous we are with money is a good indication of our generosity level. Do you agree our willingness to give financially to the church (tithes and offering) is a fair and accurate measure of our generosity? Why or why not?

Romans 12:1-2 tells us to offer our selves as a living sacrifice. In Acts 20:25 Jesus said, "*It's more blessed to give than receive.*" What do you think these means and how does this impact what Jesus is saying about being a servant?

Matthew 20:20-28

Matthew 23:11-12

Mark 10:35-45

If more Christ Followers saw themselves as a "living sacrifice"
how would that impact what Peter says in 1 Peter 4:10?

What do you think is the key to being a servant – humbly serving God – putting Him first in our lives – striving to grow His kingdom - reaching the lost and not just living for our selves?

Getting Personal & Practical ... what is the big idea – the big take away – the main point – from this study you need to put into action and apply to your life this week? What are some of the barriers and obstacles you'll need God's help & power in so you can earn the respect and credibility of others to represent God and be a life saving station?