

New Life

Bible Study Lesson

THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP #7 – DISRESPECT



DAILY READINGS:

- ❖ **Monday:** Adam and Eve showed disrespect for God's commandment (Genesis 3:1-6).
- ❖ **Tuesday:** Read the end results of disrespect (2 Kings 2:23-24; Daniel 5:2-3, 30; Numbers 12:1-2, 10, 15).
- ❖ **Wednesday:** Jehoiakim showed disrespect for God's words (Jeremiah 36:1-23).
- ❖ **Thursday:** Disrespect was shown toward God's house (Ezekiel 25:3-7).
- ❖ **Friday:** Who are we to respect? (Leviticus 19:32; Ephesians 6:2; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:17).
- ❖ **Saturday:** God expects respect (Deuteronomy 12:32; Psalm 29:2; Ecclesiastes 5:1).

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

Is Disrespect a Way of Life?

A famous man once said: "Children now love luxury, they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize over their teachers." Although this quote is credited to



Socrates, who lived a long time ago (469-399 B.C.), this could well be describing the children of today's society. No doubt, Isaiah noticed a similar problem in his day when he wrote that *"The young will rise up against the old, the nobody against the honored."* (Isaiah 3:5). Another translation says, "Young people will not respect those who are older."

Have you ever been asked to take out the trash, clean your room, do the dishes, or feed the dog and you did not feel like doing it? What was your response? Did you roll your eyes, mutter something under your breath, complain about how much work you have to do, ignore your parents, argue, or talk back? These are some of the different forms of showing disrespect. Sadly, these behaviors are very common in children and teens. In fact, slang words often show the trends of the current culture, and the slang word "dis," which means "to treat with disrespect or contempt," has recently been added to the dictionary (*Merriam-Webster*).

Today you do not have to look very far to find examples of disrespect. It is common in movies, music, the news, politics, the classroom, and the workplace. This tool of the devil is very contagious! It can be seen almost everywhere (children with parents, students with teachers, employees with employers, people with the police and those in authority). Because of this, the devil is convincing people, this is just the way it is today; everybody acts that way. But what does God's Word have to say about disrespect?

Examples of Disrespect in the Bible

One definition of disrespect is failing to place the proper value on some one or some thing. When you read Bible stories about disrespect, you will learn that disobedience soon follows disrespect. Adam and Eve failed to place a high value on the commandment given in the Garden of Eden, and they soon disobeyed. When Cain showed disrespect concerning his sacrifice, it was not long until he showed disrespect for his brother's life as well, becoming the world's first murderer. When God asked Cain, "Where is Abel," Cain lied and said, "I know not" (Genesis 4:9).

Consider the reaping of others who showed disrespect: the young men toward Elisha (2 Kings 2:23-24); Belshazzar toward the sacred vessels (Daniel 5:2-3, 30); Miriam and Aaron toward Moses (Numbers 12:1-2, 10, 15); and Jonah's disrespect concerning God's command (Jonah 1:1-4, 17).

Disrespect took many forms in these Bible stories—disrespect for God's leaders, God's holy vessels, and the Word of God—yet in the end, a high price was paid by all. Pharaoh showed disrespect for God, saying: *"Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.'"* (Exodus 5:2). Absalom showed disrespect for his father David by swaying the hearts of the people and trying to steal the kingdom. The people in Ezekiel's day showed disrespect for the house of God, saying, *"Aha [or laughing, celebrating], against [God's] sanctuary, when it was profaned [degraded]"* (Ezekiel 25:3). Jehoiakim burned the scroll containing the words of God that was given to the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 36:1-23). Consider the ends of Pharaoh (Exodus 14:27-28), Absalom (2 Samuel 18:10, 14), and Jehoiakim (killed and his body was "to be thrown before the walls, without any burial"; *Josephus*). Read the words of Ezekiel concerning the people who disrespected God's house (Ezekiel 25:6-7). These (and many more) Bible stories should leave no doubt how seriously God feels about disrespect.



Are You Being Disrespectful?

There will be many times in your life when you will not like or agree with decisions made by your parents, teachers, or others in authority. You might become irritated or even angry. The problem begins when you let those feelings affect your attitude, words, or actions. Some young people are obviously disrespectful, saying things like, "Don't tell me what to do" or "You can't make me do it." However, disrespect is not always so obvious. Too often, because words are not used, young people feel that they are being treated unfairly when their disrespect is corrected. Facial expressions (such as rolling your eyes), body language (ignoring someone), making fun of someone (laughing), and walking away when someone is talking to you are nonverbal forms of disrespect.

Disrespect in the classroom can include: talking while the teacher is teaching, not paying attention, causing distractions, bullying or making fun of others, glaring at the teacher, or not following directions. Disrespect in the workplace can include: being continually late for work, being lazy, spending time on your phone instead of working, interrupting others' conversation, gossiping about other coworkers, or dressing sloppily. Disrespect for the house of God can include: unnecessary talking during service, leaving a mess, failing to close your eyes during prayer, laughing or criticizing others, unnecessary texting or being on the internet during the church service, or failing to dress appropriately.

Living a Life of Respect

The importance of showing respect and honoring others is woven throughout the verses of the Bible. God expects respect for His Word (Deuteronomy 12:32), for His name (Psalm 29:2), and for His house of worship (Ecclesiastes 5:1). The Bible also teaches us who else should receive respect: (1) elders, (2) parents, (3) those in authority, and (4) every person. Have you ever felt disrespected or looked down on? Society often differentiates between groups of people, elevating some people and putting down others. Respect is often given based on one's talents, money, accomplishments, or friends. Is this true respect? Because Peter was very prejudiced, God taught him an important lesson. Later, Peter wrote, *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism"* (Acts 10:34). James 2:1 warns against showing favoritism (determining who is worthy of respect and who is not).

Albert Einstein said, "I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university." How do you treat people you look up to compared to people who seem to have little value? What is your reaction when people have opinions that differ from yours? We all want to be treated with respect but how do we treat others? Learn to esteem others—everyone has value! Peter summed it up well when he wrote: "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." (1 Peter 2:17).



- 1. Look up the word disrespect in the dictionary and write the definition, without using the words disrespect or respect.**
- 2. List some of the examples of showing disrespect to your parents?**
- 3. What soon follows disrespect?**
- 4. What are these forms of disrespect found in the Bible?**
- 5. What are some examples of nonverbal forms of disrespect?**
- 6. What are some examples of disrespect in the classroom? On the job?**
- 7. What are some examples of disrespect in God's house?**
- 8. What four groups of people does the bible tell us to show respect to?**
- 9. What is "respector of persons" (James 2:1)? Check the Amplified Bible**
- 10. Read and think on 1 Peter 2:17 – use the Amplified Bible version (look it up online)**