

CHARACTER

Connection



RESPECT

MARCH 2012

RESPECT: "To esteem the worth or excellence of a person."

"There are countless ways of achieving greatness, but any road to achieving one's maximum potential must be built on a bedrock of respect for the individual, a commitment to excellence, and a rejection of mediocrity."

- Anonymous

I was recently dropping off my young son at Lindon Elementary early one morning when I noticed two cars racing for a "Lucky Dogger" parking place right in front of the school. I observed both people, a man in a truck, and a woman with several kids, giving each other hand gestures and verbally expressing themselves as to who had the right to that space. I observed the man aggressively moving his large truck to block her from the spot, he had won. They continued their game of evil looks and hand gestures with no one the wiser to what had taken place but me. This situation plays out in our lives almost daily.

I observe this character trait of "RESPECT" being destroyed by so many that no longer think of the other person but only of themselves. Respect must be earned. We cannot just acquire this attribute without effort on our part in obtaining it. Today many of us look to find natural heroes who we admire and respect; the movie star, the great athlete, or a political figure. But no matter how successful they might be in the world's eyes, respect is not automatic.

As parents we have to be more aware that "respect" is being taken from our society through the media that our families are exposed to. What we see in movies, on our television screens, and the harshness of words being broadcast on our airwaves has become so mean and disrespectful. Billy Graham said this; "A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone". Our children today are only acting out what they are seeing and are being taught each day either by us, as their parents, or by the world.

The best teaching of this attribute must be done by parents. The example we set in our daily living will be the beacon to which our children will look and will either become respectful or

disrespectful for not only their lives but for generations that will follow.

The following Indian legend says it best, "There once was a man, who was raising his young son. The mother had passed away in childbirth and he was teaching his son all he knew. As the son grew up he wanted to go to the nearby village and find a wife. After many months the young man finally returned with a new wife. They would live in the home of his father.

Shortly after, they had a son. The father, now a grandfather, would begin to teach this young man all he knew. He taught him how to respect the forest, the animals, and life. The mother tired of sharing her home with the old man and told her husband she wanted him gone.

The father said, "I cannot, this is his home and he built it for us." She then told him it was either him or her. The father then went and got his son and told him to take his grandpa out and leave him. Give him this blanket."

The boy cried, "Why would you have me do this? He has taught me everything I know." The father again spoke telling him to just do as he was told. So the next morning, the father went hunting to the north and the son took his grandfather and went as far as he could to the south.

That evening the young boy was sitting on his bed crying when his father came in. He saw the blanket on the bed. "Son, I thought I told you to give Grandpa the blanket?" "I gave Grandpa half of the blanket. The other half, I will give to you some day." The father and mother understood the message, and they went and brought Grandpa back.

Mark L. Walker, Lindon City Councilmember

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

– During family discussion times talk about ways to respect the person who is talking. Use a “talking feather.” (The person who holds the feather has the turn to speak. The others listen intently and practice good eye contact with the feather holder.

– Have a formal family dinner where good manners are emphasized. What does courtesy have to do with showing respect?

– Alexander Graham Bell, born on March 3, 1847, once told his family that he would rather be remembered as a teacher of the deaf than as the inventor of the telephone. How can we show respect and make life better for those who have different abilities?

By Laura Clement

QUOTES ON RESPECT

“Respect commands itself and it can neither be given nor withheld when it is due.”

“When you are content to be simply yourself and don’t compare or compete, everybody will respect you.”
Lao-Tzu

“America has furnished to the world the character of Washington. And if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind.”

Daniel Webster

“There are countless ways of achieving greatness, but any road to achieving one’s maximum potential must be built on a bedrock of respect for the individual, a commitment to excellence, and a rejection of mediocrity”

BOOK LIST

“The Rag Coat” by Lauren Mills

“Twenty and Ten” by Claire Hutchet Bishop

“Thank You Mr. Falker” by Patricia Polacco

“Chester’s Way” by Kevin Henkes

KID’S CORNER

Respect Dos and Don’ts

Dos

- *During class if someone is talking to you, try to get them to be quiet.*
- *Raise your hand if you want to make a comment.*
- *If you see people doing something like vandalism, tell a teacher.*
- *Walk in the halls.*
- *If there is a new kid in your school include him.*
- *Follow your teacher’s directions.*
- *Listen when announcements are made.*
- *Respect others’ religious beliefs.*
- *Respect people of all skin colors.*

Don’ts

- *Don’t goof off during a lesson.*
- *Don’t put others down or make fun of them.*
- *Don’t run in the halls.*
- *Don’t hurt someone for any reason.*
- *Don’t make fun of the way other people dress.*
- *Don’t spread gossip.*
- *Don’t make fun of teachers.*

*Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support. If you can help please send contributions to:
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