

Called to Belong

Respect Builds Relationship

Ps. Vernon's prophecy for me - you are going to address the area of home life and relationships between husband and wife and children and how home are to be. As this transpire is happen, the people are going to have more intimate and better relationships and prosperity of God is really going to flow like He ordained it to be.

There is going to cause great breakthrough and prosperity for many people cause many are out of order. God wants to bring things in order.

There's a saying in Chinese, 'when there is peace in d family, there is prosperity in all areas', but 'when there is non-stop of arguments, d family is declining (waste away).'

This is exactly like what d BS says:

Psalms 133:1-2

1 How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD commands his blessing, even life forevermore.

It's not because God is not willing to bless us, He has already given His Son

to us, what else He will behold from us?

Why can't we receive the commanded blessing when there is no unity?

We can't receive d commanded blessings because when there is no unity, everyone get distracted, everyone is doing their own thing, going into different directions, can't c d leading n d blessings of God, n become d sitting duck 4 d enemy.

Therefore BS says that we have 2 make every effort 2 keep d unity.

Ephesians 4:2-3

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There are many causes that can break d unity; n one of the causes of breaking could be lack of respect. Which many of us have neglected.

Yes, we may love our spouses, or our children, there is no doubt about it, but we may not respect them.

Eg. in a conversation or dinner w a guest, d wife will do most of d talking, but d moment d husb open his mouth, she will stop him or cut his words immediately, or even say sarcastic words about him.

He may keep quiet, but it hurts, n when d wounds get bigger n deeper, d relationship turn sour.

We like pe 2 talk to us nicely, politely, when pe respect us -we feel great.

Especially the older we are, the more we want people to respect us-we want our parents, relatives treat us like an adult. When we grow older, we want our boss, colleagues, spouses, children and people who are younger than us to respect us.

But people won't respect us, just because we r old, rich, or highly educated.

Respect is a 2-way traffic, n when we take the 1st move by respecting others, we will gain more respects.

Respect is a sign of maturity.

Respect means to honor, value, esteem, price as precious.

To respect someone means to give him/her a high value, to see them most precious, mostly costly. Eg. U have an old watch which was given 2 u by your old friend or ex-girlfriend, it's already out of fashion, spoil, won out, yet u won't want to throw it away, cause u see it valuable.

A. RESPECT EVERYONE

1 Peter 2:17

17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Everyone-all people, parents, in-grace(in -law), brothers, sisters, relatives, young and old people, leaders, spiritual leaders, friends, colleagues, boss, boys and girls.

We respect them regardless of status, or whether they are worthy or not.

They may not be worthy of our respect, yet we can still respect them.

Respect your spouse

Ephesians 5:33

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Why is there hindrance to our prayer when we don't respect our wives?

Husb n wives sh respect one another.

If there is any disagreement, both can find a suitable time to have an open communication, tell him/her about your feeling. But in front of your children, or in d public, u have 2 respect them.

I have seen a lot of men that they r really romantic, they really love their wives, but they cannot control their own temper, n d abusive words just come out from their mouths, this is no respect. Well, your spouse may b v horrible, but she still has d image of God, n remember, she is an heir with you in life.

If u do not respect yr wife, yr prayers will be hinder. It is not because of God refuse 2 answer yr prayer, but it is because d guilt that u have, that block u from hearing from God.

I have an old friend-hot tempered, girl friend ask me 4 help, I talked 2 him about his temper, n he said, 'my father has hot temper, my brother has hot temper, I can't help it'. I told him, now u r a new person in X, u have God's nature. Well, he didn't change, he has family problems, n he also lost his ministry.

Jimmy-10 yrs old-hot tempered, one day, dad told gave him a pcs of wood w a packet of nails- n he told him- son, whenever u want 2 throw yr temper, nail 1 nail on d wood- a wk later- he told d dad that d wood is full of nails, n no more room 4 nails- dad- now pull out d n nails 1 by 1- 2 hrs later, Jimmy pulled out all d nails fr d wood n show it 2 d dad -dad- now get something 2 cover up all d holes- d son did-dad asked- does this wood look as good as new? -no

When we hurts pe w words, d damage is there, esp emotional

hurts take longer time 2 heal. Emotional hurts strange d relationship, how 2 have unity in d family while yr spouse is crying 2 God over his/her wounded soul that cause by u?

Respect parents and parents-in -grace

Ephesians 6:2

2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise-

As children, we must obey and honor them, ie respect our parents- they r not perfect, they make mistakes, even serious mistakes that hurt u or the family, yet still respect them, cause they r our parents. They are the representatives of God.

Respect yr parents-in-grace, wout them, u won't have yr spouse. They may unreasonable, controlling, yet respect them, u may not need 2 agree w what they said, u can still respect them, celebrate their birthdays, buy them things, especially during festive seasons.

Respect your children Ephesians 6:4-5

4 And you, fathers, **do not provoke** your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (NKJV)

Respect your children, 2 not tear them down in d public, even small kids will feel humiliated if u punish them in d public, perhaps u can bring them 2 a corner where no one can see them, then give them

light punishment when it's necessary.

Respect yr son-in-grace or daughter-in -grace

Treat them like yr own children, u may give advice 2 yr children not 2 married d girl or d boy, but once yr children has made d choice, u have 2 respect them, because whether it is d rt choice or not, it's their problem, they r going 2 face it.

Do not interfere in their lives, once they r married, they have 2 take up d responsibilities.

Respect your boss

Ephesians 6:5

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with *respect* and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

1 Timothy 6:2

2 Those who have **believing masters** are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to **serve them even better**, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

Your boss may be harsh, or u r smarter than him, older than him, more experiences than him, yet that is the boss, u have to submit and respect.

Or the boss may be your childhood friend, but in the office, he is still your boss, u must talk to him with respect, and not argue and fight back.

Xian master- should serve even better.

Respect spiritual leaders

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12 Now we ask you, brothers, to **respect** those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the **highest regard** in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Hebrews 13:7

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Respect the spiritual authority and leaders over you, they r God's representatives, God has entrusted them 2 oversee your spiritual life, they pray 4 u, they work hard 2 make sure that u have d right spiritual food n nutrients, so that u r able 2 grow strong n healthily, n u r able 2 receive all d blessings fr God. They will have 2 give d reports 2 God. Be open 2 their teaching, advices n admonitions. Do not slander them even if u don't agree w them. Reject evil reports on d man of God, or it will pollute yr soul, hinder yr relationship w God, n rob u fr d inheritances of God.

Respect yr friends

Human relationship is fragile, it is not easy to build, and it takes time.

Sometimes we see so and so are good friends for years, but suddenly, it was broken over a small issue or the relationship turn sour. Why?

One of the reasons could be over familiar with one another, take things for granted, and lost the respect for one another.

If u want a long lasting friendship, learn to respect your friends, yes, u know them very well, including their weakness, u still need to respect them, respect their privacy, do not go to their house often or enter

their room without invitation. Remember not to expose their weaknesses or secret to others.

Respect d opposite sex

1 Thess 5:22

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

KJV

avoid touching one another, do not give people d wrong message or d appearance of evil.

If u r in d courtship, as long as both of u is not married, physical intimacy sh b avoided, so that both will not fall into temptation, If u love yr girlfriend, u sh respect her body, till d day u got married.

When relating 2 an opposite sex, certain sensitive issues like sex should not be discussed.

Respect yourselves

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

God made us different fr animals, we have d image of God, n His sp lives in us, therefore we should respect ourselves n our body, do not have any physical relationship w anyone outside d marriage.

Respect authorities

Romans 13: 1-7

7 ...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

B. RESPECT AS TO THE LORD

Colossians 3:23

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, **as working for the Lord**, not for men

1 Timothy 6:1

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should **consider** their masters **worthy of full respect**, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.

How do we respect someone whom we feel is not worthy of our respect?

Respect people from our heart-

Full respect, not ½ respect

Sometimes, we feel it is hard for us to respect some people, esp. we discover their weaknesses or the serious mistakes they made. We always feel that if we respect them, we r endorsing their sins n we r hypocrites.

We can respect people despite of their weaknesses when we look at them, or see them worthy of respect.

If we expect everyone to be perfect in order for us respect, then besides Js, no one is worthy to be respect, include we ourselves.

When we respect people as to the Lord, we find that it is easy to respect people.

1 Peter 2:17

17 **Show respect** for everyone... TLB
Show respect for all men (treat them honorably) ... Amplified Bible

Respect is not only through words but also with action.

Respect does not mean that u must agree w everything that d person said.

U may not agree w d person, but u don't have 2 raise yr voice, passing sarcastic remarks or jokes, humiliate, or insulting d person.

We respect people w a listening ear, talk to them politely. to argue or fight back. If they are wrong, we can talk to them in a tactful way, if they refuse 2 listen, we can pray, the

Lord will either change u or change him.

C. RESPECT DIFFERENCES

Romans 12:4-5

4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members **do not all have the same function**, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

All of us r different, we come from different background, different upbringing, different education background, we have different taste, different hobbies, different thinking, different believe system, no one is exactly like us. If everyone is like us, don't think it's boring.

Girls r different from boys, that's why there is attraction.

The differences are to complement one another.

Respect different cultural, even among d same race, there r still many differences. Therefore, accept n respect differences; do not think our ways or methods are d best.

When we accept n respect differences, we will be happier, n we r able 2 built strong n gd relationships; n when d relationship is gd, it's easier 2 have unity, n d blessings flow.

How do we respect differences?