Dear Parents,

We would all agree that today we live in a consumerist society, and, sadly, when it comes to children and parents this can be the case as well. Parents are the givers of services and children are consumers. When children have a consumer mindset, they don’t feel the need to give anything in return, and in this case that is RESPECT.

We want our children to be respectful towards us, towards their siblings, their friends, their teachers. Actually we expect them to be respectful towards EVERYONE. But how do we move from wanting a respectful child to actually having one? Check out this video to begin the conversation on instilling respect, then we’ll give some practical tools on HOW to instill respect in your child.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/101714863/9dcd51445a>

Respect and honor, honor and respect. These words are used interchangeably in the Bible. We’re called to honor and respect EVERYONE, especially those who have authority over us. At the root of respect is treating others the way we want to be treated, that’s right, the golden rule. It’s not just a concept to talk about; it’s actually in the Bible! Matthew 7:12 says, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets.” In other words, treat others the way you want to be treated. When we learn to abide by this golden rule we’ll find ourselves respecting those around us.

We know you need practical tools to ensure you’re helping your child be respectful to others, so here are a few principles to live by to encourage a respectful attitude in your child:

* **Set the Mode** Help your child be a courteous conversationalist, allowing others to talk, listening with eye contact, and not interrupting.
* **Set The Expectation** Everywhere you go there are rules, so go over the expectations BEFORE you enter that unique situation. You’ll help set them up to respect those leaders and the rules.
* **Set The Tone** Develop a language of respect in your home. Keep vocal tone and volume in check and apply consequences when your kids are out of bounds.

Yes, Aretha taught us how to spell it: R-E-S-P-E-C-T, but now hopefully, you have some practical tools to teach it. Respect is one of those character traits that will help your child adjust well throughout his or her life. It’s one you’ll appreciate as parents, teachers and friends will welcome, and future co-workers and employers will value.

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah