

The first is the word for considerate. Husbands are instructed to be considerate as they live with their wives. The word for considerate is literally with an understanding. The word is gnosis. It is the term that means personal and not intellectual knowledge. It is not to know about someone, but to really know someone with an understanding of who they are.

The second phrase reminds the husbands to see their wives as people who are heirs of the gracious gift. Peter is saying to husbands your wives are people of worth to God, just as you are. They are included in God's love and redemption. So the wife is of worth to the husband because she is of worth to God.

In these two phrases we get the idea of worth. Here is why worth is important in regard to respect, the person in our family who might not earn our respect or even be worthy of respect by their action can still be respected in the family because of their worth. First of all, no matter what happens we seek to know them. We don't just write them off, but we seek an understanding. We stay personally connected in a way to love them. We also regard them as people of worth, if for no other reason... that they are of worth to God.

In this way, no matter the relationship, we can show respect through worth.

This brings us ultimately to the true basis for respect and honor. We respect and honor each other out of submission to Christ. Both of these passages begin with the big picture. We are to live in mutual submission to each other, so in the family there must be respect and honor. In Peter, show proper respect to everyone. Why should we do this? It is the example of Jesus. We show respect out of submission to Jesus.

The Lord's Table reminds us of this basis for respect and honor. We submit to Jesus and to each other because Jesus submitted himself on our behalf.

Jesus on the cross is the greatest act of submission. Out of reverence for God, we show reverence for one another. We remember God values us. Jesus stepped out of eternity into our time. The one who was before time limited himself in time to show his love for us. God gave to us attention. In our sin, he did not cast us away and dismiss us. God took notice of us and gave us His all. In Christ, God said once and for all I know you and you are of great worth.

My friends not for our sake, nor for our culture's sake, or for the sake of others but for the sake of Christ... we must restore respect in our homes. Every home needs respect.



Trinity Baptist Church
4815 Six Forks Rd * Raleigh, NC 27609 * (919) 787-3740



RESPECT

Ephesians 5:22-6:4, 1 Peter 2:7

TRINITY PULPIT

Last week, we discussed how we have lost trust for one another in our culture. Maybe what is behind that loss of trust is our loss of respect for each other? It was in the midst of the Iraqi War that the band the Dixie Chicks, the darlings of Country and Pop music at the time, made a fatal career mistake. They criticized President Bush while performing in England. In the midst of a tense moment in world politics, these artists spoke up and in their lack of respect for the moment they paid a heavy price. Stations dropped their songs from the radio and people stopped buying their music. The group that was at the top of the charts still has a following, but nothing like it was before that moment of what many would call a moment of disrespect.

This past week another artist, rock guitarist Ted Nugent, who is an outspoken 2nd amendment advocate, called President Obama... and I quote, a "Subhuman Mongrel." Such language, which is not only racially charged but also derogatory, caused another outcry from both democrats and republicans. Nugent has since apologized but the damage is done.

What do these two outspoken artists have in common? They disrespected the office of the President. Although they might disagree with the President and his policies, we all should squirm a little when someone makes personal derogatory remarks about one of our sitting presidents. It just shows a lack of respect and honor. Yet, we should not be surprised. It would seem that every week someone has to issue an apology for something they said that was disparaging toward another.

This sense of lack of respect not only permeates the media and politics, but also our interpersonal relationships. Think of the moments this week you felt disrespected or when you disrespected another. It may have happened at work, or church and sad to say in our homes.

If we are going to regain respect and honor in our culture, then just like faith and trust it must begin in the home. Today we are thinking about a third quality that every family needs. That is respect.

Our two passages use the term... respect. In Ephesians, as Paul is instructing husbands and wives how to live with each other as part of their mutual submission to each other and as a model of love, Paul tells the husband to love his wife like he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband. This instruction is part of a larger instruction that begins with "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." The word we translate reverence in verse 21 is the same word that Paul uses in regards to the wives respecting their husbands in verse 33. The term is Phobos where we get the world phobia or fear. In verse 21 we translate it reverence and in 33 it is translated respect. The word respect actually means to re-view or to look toward again. It is to give a second glance or another consideration. So, as we think about one meaning of the word respect we would say it is to reverence or hold in high esteem. It is also to give attention too. To consider the other person with a high regard. That would be especially true when it comes to opinion and thought.

In 1 Peter, we also find the word respect in regards to the relationship between husband and wife. There, however, the

word is not Phobos or fear but it is “TIMEN”, which means to value or cherish. So, Peter tells husbands value or cherish your wife as a weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life. In other words, husband value your wives for they too have received God’s love and gift of salvation. Thus, they are to be respected for God has valued them just as God valued you.

So far we have seen that respect means reverence, consideration and now value. The other word that I think is tied into this thought of respect in the home is the word for honor. Children are to honor their parents. Peter writes show proper Phobos or respect to all and we are to honor or “TIMEN” the king or one in authority.

So in these two passages, we find the concept of respect and honor in the family. The two words that keep emerging are the word Phobos, which we translate, reverence or respect and the word “TIMEN” which we translate honor or respect.

Let’s use these two words for moment as our building blocks for building respect in our homes. Let me mention three words for us to consider what it means to respect one another in our families.

The first word is reverence. The term really means to hold in high esteem or admire. As I thought about this word I could not help but think of my various titles. I have the title of Dr. Roberts, which is really an academic title of an earned degree. Then there is the title of Pastor, which comes from a Biblical office. My responsibility is to pastor or shepherd a congregation. Which means not so much about authority and power as much as responsibility to God. I will give an account for how I fulfilled the calling of pastor. There is of course the title of Senior Pastor in our congregation. Which means that ultimately I am responsible even when I don’t want to be. Then there is another title, which I used for many years until I earned my doctorate and the reality is it is really a more fitting title for my role than the academic title and that is Reverend. Reverend is the title we use to refer to the ordained clergy. It has the connotation of reverence and esteem for the individual with the title. Yet, we know that not everyone who bears this name has earned such high esteem. The esteem, which is given to the

person, is done so out of respect for who they are and hopefully who they are becoming.

In the end, there are several men and women who we call reverend who will not live lives of high esteem. However, I can think of so many men and women who were given such a title as young people at their ordination and over the years living in relationship with the church they are truly esteemed, respected and admired.

Let me repeat something I said. The esteem we give, the reverence we give is for who they are right now and for who they are hopefully becoming.

I think that is a good definition for respect in the family. Why do we show respect and honor for one another in the family? It is not necessarily because it has been earned, but because of who they are and who they are hopefully becoming. We show each other respect because we are husband and wife or we are father and mother and child. Respect begins in who they are too us. It is in this relationship where respect is born. It is in the relationship where the seed of respect must be planted.

So if we want families where there is respect, we should begin with the thought because of who you are and who you are becoming in Christ... I will hold you in esteem. I will show you reverence that is respect.

If relationship plants the seed of respect, then value is what waters the seed and tends it. The word that Paul uses in regards to honor and the word Peter uses concerning the husband’s response is value. The husband is to value his wife. In a culture where the wife was seen as the weaker partner and not valued for the husband to respect or value or honor his wife was an incredible statement. Children were to value their parents.

What are some ways we can value each other in the family? Well there is time. Time, as we said last week, is of utmost importance. There is nothing that replaces time. As much as we complain about time and a busy calendar, we do live in a culture where we actually do choose what to do with our time more than other cultures around the world. In many cultures the activities of the

day are filled with making sure there is food to eat and a place to sleep. Most of life is filled with planting or harvesting food, gathering food and water and eating to survive. Most of life is filled with the activities of survival. The idea of “free time” is an odd consideration. There is no “free time” there is just time. Those of us in the west compartmentalize our lives and we work, then we have the time we can choose to do what we want to do. It is our free time. How we use our free time is how we measure what is important. Does the time you are with family reveal their value?

A second word I would use is attention. As we said earlier, to respect means to give a second look. It is to turn and reconsider. In other words, it is to give attention. It describes seeing something and at first you might let it pass, but something in your mind says look again and so you do and you give it attention.

We show value with attention, yet we live in a world of distractions. Chris Hedges writes:

The power of images to create [their] own reality has left us the most illusioned nation on earth. It has created an illusion about who we are, about where we are going, about what is happening around us, and has disconnected us so deeply from reality that we can no longer make rational decisions that affect our future.”
--Chris Hedges Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author of “Empire of Illusion”

There is a great study occurring about the effects of our constant stimulation in our culture. We celebrate these days... the ability to multi task. However, there are now many medical, psychological and sociological studies that reveal the danger of multi-tasking. Whether it is texting while we drive, the loss of productivity at work from keeping up with social media while working, or the inability to concentrate and study academically or just the loss of the ability to have a conversation at

IF RELATIONSHIP PLANTS THE SEED OF RESPECT AND VALUE WATERS AND TENDS RESPECT, THEN WORTH IS THE WORD THAT HARVESTS RESPECT IN OUR FAMILIES. WORTH IS THE KEY TO KEEPING RESPECT VIBRANT AND STEADY REGARDLESS OF THE CHANGES WITHIN A FAMILY.

dinner without the constant distraction of a tweet, email, snap chat or Facebook update...multi-tasking is taking its toll. It is taking its toll on the family.

When asked about his particular genius, Isaac Newton responded that if he had made any discoveries, it was “owing more to patient attention than to any other talent.” In one of the many letters he wrote to his son in the 1740s, Lord Chesterfield offered the following advice: “There is time enough for everything in the course of the day, if you do but one thing at once, but there is not time enough in the year, if you will do two things at a time.”

In our culture, where we have lost the ability to pay attention we show respect and honor when we give attention. Parents, what would your children say about your use of your phone when you spend time with them? This problem became real clear to me one night when Robin and I were both sitting on the couch, the television on, both with laptops open, and we began to chat on Facebook. I really believed somehow we had entered the matrix that night. We are sad aren’t we? It is just so easy to not pay attention, even when we are giving time. If respect means to look again, then it means to give attention. We show value with attention.

The third word I want us to consider is worth. If relationship plants the seed of respect and value waters and tends respect, then worth is the word that harvests respect in our families. Worth is the key to keeping respect vibrant and steady regardless of the changes within a family. In our families our relationships change. Yes, we are always husband and wife, parent and child and siblings but through the seasons of life these relationships have different nuances. In the same way, the ability to give time and attention changes with family dynamics. Yet, worth remains. Worth keeps respect in our families regardless of these changes. There are two phrases in the 1 Peter passage, which I think informs our idea of worth.