

RESPECT

Defined:

Dictionary: 1. to hold in high regard; show honor or courtesy to 2. to show consideration for; avoid intruding upon, etc. [**respect** others' privacy]...**n.** 1. a feeling of high regard; esteem 2. a being held in honor 3. deference or dutiful regard [**respect** for law]...

Eyres: Respect for life, for property, for parents, for elders, for nature, and for the beliefs and rights of others. Courtesy, politeness, and manners. Self-respect and the avoidance of self-criticism.

Examples: 1. Most adults, as employees, have supervisors who make decisions that affect them. Often we disagree with the decisions made by the supervisors and often we are right. Nevertheless, we must show **respect** for those people who are our supervisors. We can do this in one of two ways:

- a. We can simply accept the supervisor's decision without saying anything.
- or
- b. We can politely and **respectfully** explain to the supervisor our reasons for disagreeing with his/her decision.

If we do not treat the supervisor in a **respectful** manner, we may get fired from our jobs.

2. Law enforcement officers must show **respect** to many people. These people include:

- a. Their supervisors.
- b. Their fellow police officers/agents.
- c. The people they deal with in the public, including the people they have to arrest.
- d. The district attorney who takes their cases to court.
- e. The attorney for the bad guy.
- f. The judge who hears their case.

Failure to respect any of these people could

cause the officer/agent to be fired, to be sued for violating someone's constitutional rights, or to be arrested for violating someone's rights, as happened with the Rodney King case in Los Angeles.

Types of respect:

1. Respect and honor for one's God and religion.
2. Respect and honor for one's parents/guardians, who have a very difficult job - raising a child.
3. Respect for one's **self**. Each of us is special and unique. God made us that way so we can all make a different contribution to this world. How dull life would be if we were all alike! If everyone was a professional football player, we wouldn't have great musicians, or business owners, or teachers, or police officers. This world would be a real mess! We must remember our lives and our bodies are gifts from God. They are very precious gifts that we must **respect** and care for. We must not damage our bodies with alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or promiscuous sex. Further, we must not get down on ourselves. (See Joe Namath's chapters on "Handling Mistakes" and "Using Your Head".)
4. Respect for our brothers and sisters, including their privacy and their possessions.
5. Respect for our neighbors and their property.
6. Respect for our classmates and teammates, including their self-esteem, their study/practice time, and their property.
7. Respect for our teachers, coaches and other adults who help us learn and grow.
8. Respect for laws and rules.
9. Respect for future girlfriends/boyfriends, including respect for their feelings and their bodies. Anyone, who truly loves or cares about someone else, would never pressure them into sex, drugs, tobacco or alcohol. And, anyone who really cares about us would never pressure us into those things. The world is full of wonderful people. Why give into those who don't really care about you?
10. Respect for police officers, fire fighters, elected officials and other people who attempt to serve the public.