

May 8, 2022

## Earning the Respect of Others

by George Slover

“Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. “Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ (Deuteronomy 4:5-6)

Commanding the respect of the others means living the right kind of life. This seems to be the gist of what God is saying to Israel. Though they had many enemies, still the nations would observe the well-ordered lives of those who obeyed God and say, “this is surely a wise people!

Who truly gains the respect of others? I did not ask, “who gets ahead,” but who truly gains the respect of others – even their enemies? The answer is simple: those who live by the wisdom of God. Consider a few examples.

Those who serve as elders are to be known for their good behavior. (I Timothy 3:2). The Greek word kosmos means to live a dignified and well-ordered life. Furthermore, they were to be “blameless” or those of whom no charge could be sustained. Surely, they had enemies, but still they had their respect.

Wives married to unbelievers can win

their husbands by their “chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” I’ve known godly women to live righteously before their husbands for many years. Finally, their example had an impact upon their husbands and they obeyed the gospel.

Finally, Peter applies the same principle to all Christians . He says, ““But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.” (1 Peter 3:15-16) Hopefully, your chaste conduct will cause the enemy to glorify God in the day of visitation.

So, what kind of life are you living? Do they witness one who honors God with honesty, undefiled language, and pure conduct? Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”(Matthew 5:13-16 ) You can make a difference!

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Our summer meeting** with Mike Walls is scheduled for June 19-22

**Our fall meeting** with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

## Needed: Volunteers for the Lord

by George Slover

*Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.” (Nehemiah 3:5)*

The local church is made of volunteers for the Lord. Its success depends upon a team of workers willing to sacrifice their time and resources for its cause. It is true that the local church needs excellent leaders, but much of its success is determined by what happens at the grass root level.

During the days of Nehemiah the Jews rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem against incredible odds. These walls had been burned and destroyed during the Babylonian captivity. In the midst of their enemies, this wonderful group of volunteers had a mind to work. (Nehemiah 4:6) In 52 days they finished the project! (Nehemiah 6:15)

Nehemiah, being a great leader, delegated the work according to families, giving each family a section of the wall for them to repair. Among the laborers were those who gladly accepted their assignment and those who were slackers. The verse quoted above presents a discouraging picture. There were some who considered themselves too good to do the work.

However, in vs. 30 we find a very encouraging example. The scripture says: After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling. (Nehemiah 3:30) Meshullam is making repairs only in front of his dwelling. It was all that was required of him. Meshullam is doing the best that he can do! Our best is all that God requires of us nothing more.

Right now local churches are in need of volunteers. Gods people are in need of a support group of truth-loving people a

shoulder on which to lean, someone to help us stay focused on godliness. The world is full of those who are like sheep without a shepherd. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. God calls for those who will use their talents to serve him and others.

So, where do you stand? Are you among the ones too good to get involved? Surely, you are among those who are willing to use your resources to the service of God.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** is home but still has very limited mobility.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother)** is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**Debbie McMurray** is undergoing chemo.

**Wilma Shipley** broke her foot but is now walking on it again.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is having an irregular heart rhythm and had a stress test. They are adjusting his medications.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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