Virtue

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<u>The Virtue of Respect</u>

When I think about virtue, I think about all the high morals that parents try to imprint in their children since a very young age. Nowadays, society has forgotten about the core virtues and morals that have being taught to them since ancient times. It could be because of the lifestyles that each may live or just because people do not value them anymore. Respect is a virtue I believe everyone should have and follow in their everyday life. We should not only have respect toward other people, but also have it toward our selves. When we have respect, we feel enormous admiration towards others or even something that we appreciate and think of as important. This is why I believe that we must first value ourselves in order to respect the world around us.

Parents must teach their children since they are very young to not only respect their elderly but also respect everyone around them without looking at age, gender, religion, race, etc. We are all equal and must give everyone the respect that we would like to receive from other. A common case that tends to happen in many families and in society is that the word of the younger ones is not equally respected as the word of the older ones. A great quote that represents this is "Respect is a two-way street, if you want to get it, you've got to give it" by R.G. Risch. This is the reason why parents must show respect to their children in order to receive respect in return. When people have children and all they want them is to do as they say just because they are the parent; children will not listen. Parents must give children a reason for their actions and listen to their children's point of view. For example, with something as simple as planning a family vacation, allow children to have a say and voice their concerns and needs so they can see that what they want matters and that they are not ignored. This will teach children to listen to their patents whenever they are giving them an advice for their good. Children will see that the

parent is setting the example of listening and assessing their opinions. They will do the same when the time for them to listen comes. Everyone matters and everyone should be treated with the same appreciation that the person wishes to have. Respect is taught at home, if we don't teach our young children that they are valuable and respected they will not respect anything or anyone. Even worse they will let people in the real-world disrespect them and take advantage of them.

We have to accept everyone for who they are and not judge them when just meeting them. We do not know what this person might have gone through that might have make him/her behave in a certain way that we might not like. It was around five years ago when I was at a friend's party and one of my friends brough her boyfriend with her. We had not met this guy before; therefore, we were all surprised to see this new face, and also to learn that he was my friend's boyfriend. He seemed very serious and not very friendly; many of my friends instantly started to speak horrendous things about him. They would also talk to my friend but would ignore his presence. They would only do this because he was quiet and very serious. Keep in mind that this was his first time meeting his girlfriend's friends and he is a shy person. I was able to observe from a distance what was happening, and I was feeling very bad that he was being left out of all conversations and to know that they were speaking about him just because he was quiet. I got up and approached him and my friend; I told them about what was happening around them. They said that they had noticed and that they were thinking of leaving the party because they were feeling uncomfortable. I asked them to please not leave and sit with me; I was going to speak to the others. By the end of the party her boyfriend was having a great time with everyone and my friends learn as the quote by George Eliot says to "Don't judge a book by its cover" and respect everyone's behavior. The fact that someone might be an extrovert does not mean that

everyone they meet has to be outgoing since the first time they meet. Many people need time to get involve and have fun with others.

I think that the virtue of respect is a very important one to discuss and practice every day, because specially in the society that we are living today many people are full of ego. Many people love to feel superior than other and treat them as if they are less or not worth of their admiration and respect. As John W. Garner said, "If you have some respect for people as they are, you can be more effective in helping them to become better than they are." If everyone would respect each other we would be able to have a less messy world, with less troubles and much more peace. We would help people become better versions of themselves instead of tearing them down. It is 1000 times better to bring people happiness than to bring them sadness; and this is very easy to obtain by working on our behavior and reactions to others and the situations we are put in life.

Respect is a beautiful virtue. By just using some simple words such as, thank you, you are welcome, excuse me, I am sorry and listening, people are able to play a big role in the world. We could be able to have a happier place and a not a troubled one to live in. I encourage everyone to start treating every individual in their life how they would like to be treated and I am sure we will have better humans being in the future.

<u>References</u>

"Don't judge a book by its cover" George Eliot

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