

# Community Care Topic

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Introducing your  
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## The Respectful Family

"What you want,  
Baby, I got.  
What you need,  
Do you know I've got it.  
All I'm askin' Is for a little  
respect,  
when you come home  
(just a little bit).  
Hey baby (just a little bit),  
when you get home,  
(Just a little bit) mister  
(just a little bit)."

**"Respect" Song by  
Aretha Franklin**

"Therefore all things  
whatsoever ye would that  
men should do to you, do  
ye even so to them: for  
this is the law and the  
prophets."

**Matthew 7:12**

All Scripture quotations, except otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769. Public Domain.

Why Respect? People can sing about it, ask for it, even demand it, but what is it? By definition, "respect" means to admire, have in high opinion, esteem, and to value. It also includes principles of ethics, partnership, accountability, and communication. Respect is a larger umbrella that addresses not only the importance of understanding, but improving how we relate, behave, and treat each other. "R.E.S.P.E.C.T."

### The Guiding Principles for a Respectful Family

There are seven pillars to build The Respectful Culture (See Proverbs 9:1).

1. The Treat others with **dignity** and **respect**. Along with decision-making principles as guidance, it is important to follow the "Golden Rule" as a standard of civilized conduct with a respectful manner towards all people. Do unto others is the "Golden Rule." "Treat others as how you would like to be treated." (Matthew 7:12) Remember that we can love the sinner and hate the sin. One person's rights end where another person's rights begin.
2. Be **accountable** for your own personal behavior. We need to be responsible for our actions. Apologize. How we act can affect others positively or negatively.
3. Tolerate no incidents of **discrimination, abuse, or harassment** (verbal, physical, and mental and emotional). If issues need to be addressed, please speak the truth with love (Ephesians 4:15). You can implement boundaries. You can also refer to your counselors, legal entities, and church leadership for assistance (Matthew 18:15-20).
4. Seek **win-win** solutions to relationship and life issues. This is a solution that benefits everyone. Cooperation is needed to "meet in the middle."
5. **Respect** personal culture, customs, and values while, at the same time, not compromising the respectful treatment of other family members. The illustration is of a "stew" where all of the ingredients contribute to the overall taste and nutrition of the meal. We need the smelly onion and the squishy tomato!
6. Be **responsible** for personal growth and for helping others to grow. The organization needs you and your contribution to the FAMILY!
7. Be **ethical**. Your standards of character and moral virtue are a trusted valuable resource. They are also a standard and example to others (when present and when away), and especially to children. (Titus 2:1-12).

Respect is the only way for people to dwell together in peace and harmony. The greatest asset to your Church family is for every person to constantly develop, preserve, improve, and enhance our own behaviors and attitudes. No one can do it for us. Respect is the single greatest investment you can make, because it leverages and influences everything else in life. "R.E.S.P.E.C.T."