



Shepherd Care®

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To Care for People Where They Live and Work

COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

The Respectful Church Family

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 topics of ethics, accountability, and teamwork. 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 Church Family

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

1. The Treat others with **dignity** and **respect**. Along with church policies and procedures 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*.” “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*) 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. Make it right. How we act can affect others positively or negatively.

3. Tolerate no incidents of **discrimination** or **harassment**. If issues need to be addressed, please speak the truth with love (*Ephesians 4:15*). You can also address any concerns by referring to your church leadership for specifics (*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 members and visitors. 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, 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. Respect.

Introducing your Community Chaplain

Eric Kieselbach

(pronounced “key-sill-baa”)

Email:

eric@shepherdcare.us

“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
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Matthew 7:12

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