

## Grades 7-12

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## Romans 13:1-2

13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.


Are you stressed? Most of us are. Join us on **Sunday, August 13th** as we talk about stress, what it is, what causes it, and most importantly, what we, as Christians, can do about it.

# Greetings!

RESPECT  
IS THE KEY



A few weeks ago, we talked about something our society is greatly lacking...**RESPECT**.

 We started with the so called **"Golden Rule"** found in **Luke 6:31** and **Matthew 7:12** in that we should treat others in the way we ourselves would like to be treated.

We looked at some people we respect and found that we tend to respect only certain people based on their abilities, qualities, or achievements. We agreed that generally, people need to "EARN" our respect. We said that people tend to use "earning respect" as an excuse to treat some people better than others. We use it as an excuse to NOT treat others how we want to be treated.

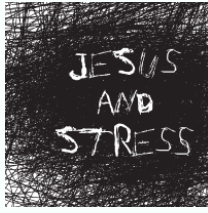
We determined that our respect for others is often very conditional based on our own personal feelings. Some people we respect may even not be respected by others or some that we respect one day, may lose our respect another day. So, we looked to the Bible to find the truth about respect.

We started with the 5th Commandment in **Exodus 20:12** and saw that God commanded that we honor (or respect) our father and our mother. We also looked in **Leviticus 19:32** where it says we are to show respect for the elderly and in **1 Peter 2:17** where it says to "show proper respect to everyone" (yes, **everyone**).

We found that all through the Bible, just like love and forgiveness, respect is not something that needs to be earned, respect is something that is given unconditionally. God didn't say to honor your parents unless they are real jerks or respect the elderly unless they are annoying you. Jesus doesn't tell us to treat others the way we want to be treated unless you don't like them very much.

We looked at Jesus' example with the adulterous woman where

"Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it."



### Life Skills Class

Our Wednesday night Youth Life Skills classes with Tom will be on Summer Break.

Watch for Tom teaching on Sunday July 30th.

### Community Service

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we meet at 10:00am at the DCS offices located at 1201 South Alma School Road (on the SE corner of Alma School and Southern Ave.

We typically spend about an hour or so cleaning the family visitation rooms and the toys that the children play with while they are there.

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

He most certainly did not agree with her sinful actions but still respected her as a person. Jesus did not agree with the actions of the Roman government but He still respected their authority. Jesus always showed proper respect to everyone without them needing to "earn" His respect.

We looked at the story of King Saul and David in **1 Samuel 24:8-10** where even though David had been literally running for his life for many years from King Saul, who was trying to actually kill him, when David was given the opportunity to kill Saul, he instead showed him the proper respect that a king deserves.

David understood that, like everything else, God places leaders in their positions so in him unconditionally respecting Saul as king he was actually showing respect to God for His choice to anoint Saul as king. Disrespecting Saul would have been disrespecting God.

We then talked about what all this means to us, today.

In the age of social media, reality TV, and 24/7 news, respect is something that seems to no longer exist in our society.

We don't respect others' opinions, feelings, beliefs, or positions. We don't even bother debating or arguing anymore but instead just immediately attack each other verbally or sometimes even physically for having a different view.

We've lost respect for authority, for our leaders, for our parents, for each other, and have even lost respect for life.

In a country where "Free Speech" is one of our most highly prized amenities, many people are legitimately afraid to say anything or stand up for themselves for fear that they'll be verbally, or even physically, attacked by people who don't agree with them. That's not freedom.

We discussed what we can do with what we learned. We saw that the Bible shows us that, just like love and forgiveness, we can choose to show respect to others regardless of whether we feel they have "earned" it or not. We can disagree with peoples' opinions, beliefs, or even actions in a respectful manner and still show them "proper respect".

We realized that this plan may work well with other Christians who are also trying to do the same but maybe not so well with non-believers or those who choose to not follow the "Golden Rule".

But, while Jesus tells us to treat others the way we would want them to treat us, basic human nature tells us to treat others the way that they treat us. Therefore, if you treat others poorly they will naturally treat you poorly in return but, if you show

them respect, their human nature would generally cause them to respect you as well.

We said that you can usually get others to follow the "Golden Rule" without them even realizing that is what they are doing. We saw this play out further along in the story about David and King Saul where David's show of respect and kindness to Saul lead to the King ultimately respecting David for his actions and even to Saul no longer trying to kill him.

We finished up by reconfirming that like love and forgiveness, respect is not something that needs to be earned. Respect is given unconditionally.

We also said that like love and forgiveness, showing respect unconditionally does not mean that you stay in a harmful situation or allow yourself to be walked all over.

You can always avoid or get out of a harmful situation (disagreeing with their actions) yet still respect the person (or position). We used the example of an abusive parent where you can, and should, remove yourself from the situation without disrespecting their position as your parent.

Acting instead on your feelings by calling them names, putting them down, or being rude towards them is not showing "proper respect" or "honor" even though you have chosen to disagree or remove yourself from the situation.

As always, continue to pray for them ("...pray for those who persecute you." **Matthew 5:44**)

## Upcoming Events!

**Winter Jam** is coming up in November. We don't have the line-up or a specific day yet but the cost will be \$35 for a VIP ticket that gets us in early for the best seats and for a Q & A session with the artists.

Let Chris or Michelle know if you want to join us so we know how many tickets to get.

**Watch for more information.**

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## Michelle is on the radio!

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show

live every Tuesday night from 7:00-8:00pm only at  
[www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace](http://www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace)

You can also find podcasts of Michelle's previous shows at the same address. For those on Facebook, look for her page: walking in grace for inspirational messages throughout the week.

Contact Michelle at 602-684-1665 if you have a topic you would like her to talk about or if you would like to be a guest on her show!

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## Personal Care Items Drive:

1 Youth is now continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson:** Luke 6:31, Matthew 7:12, Exodus 20:12, Leviticus 19:32, 1 Peter 2:17, Matthew 22:37-39, 1 Samuel 24:8-10

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry