

Cultural Rot

Lack Respect for Authority

Respect - 1. esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability: 2. the condition of being esteemed or honored:

Authority - the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine.

Points to Consider

1. Examples of Cultural Rot
2. Biblical Examples and instructions
3. What we can do about it

Examples of Cultural Rot

- Police chiefs all over the country are concerned that those they come in contact with are increasingly hostile and disrespectful.
- In 2015 the confidence Americans had in police tied an all time low of 53%.
- Ethan Couch - The Affluenza Kid.
- Survey of respect for authority in School - Parents respecting teachers fell from 91% to 49%. Students respecting teachers fell from 79% to 31%.
- We have lost our terms of respect.

Biblical Examples and Instructions

We need to remember that questioning a decision is not the same as rejecting a person's authority.

We confuse a lack of respect for authority with a lack of respect for the one in authority.

Col 3:22-25 *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. NKJV*

You can respect the _____ a person has without respecting the one with the authority.

Bondservants are to submit to the authority of their masters out of _____ and fear for God.

Peter tells us that there are harsh masters who are not worthy of respect yet they still have _____ over us. (1 Peter 2:18)

1 Sam 24:8 *David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. NKJV*

Saul did not earn David's respect. David respected him as king because he was anointed by God.

2 Kings 2:23-25 ²³ *Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"* ²⁴ *So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.* ²⁵ *Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.*

A group of young people showed _____ for Elisha. God sent two female bears out of the woods and it _____ forty-two young people. God expects us to respect others.

2 Sam 16:5-8 ⁵ *Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came.* ⁶ *And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.* ⁷ *Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!"* ⁸ *The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"*

Shimei accused David of being a _____ man and a rogue. Abishai wanted to kill Shimei, but David _____ him from going so. Shimei did not see David the way _____ saw David. God said that David was a man after His own heart. David was hopeful that the Lord would return a blessing on him for the curse he received from Shimei. Sometimes people are disrespectful due to a _____ slight by a person in authority.

Numbers 12:1-3 *Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.* ² *So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?"* *And the LORD heard it.* ³ *(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)*

Miriam and Aaron _____ Moses because of his choice of a spouse.

Numbers 16:1-3 *Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men;* ² *and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.* ³ *They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"*

Korah and his band of rebels "gathered together _____ Moses and Aaron."

The rebels _____ Moses' authority.

Instructions

1 Sam 15:23 *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.* NKJV

Rebellion is compared to _____.
_____ is one of the reasons we don't show a proper respect for authority.

Lev 20:6-8 *And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. 7 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. 8 And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the Lord who sanctifies you.* NKJV

Lev 20:26-27 *And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine. 27 'A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.'* NKJV

Those who practiced witchcraft were cut off from the people and _____ with stones.

Rom 13:1-2 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.* NKJV

1 Peter 5:5-7 *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* NKJV

Christians are submissive people! We submit to God and the authorities He establishes.

Christians are _____ people.

Younger people are to submit to older people.

We are all to submit to each other.

What Can We Do About it?

1. Make a list of the people who have authority over you. Think of at least one way you can show respect for their authority.
2. Make a list of people you have authority over and pick at least one to show respect to this week.
3. Let's bring back _____ of respect.
4. Let's make sure we are being polite.
5. Be careful how we talk about people in authority.
6. We should all focus on being people who are _____ of respect.
7. Use your authority to serve others.
8. Remember the _____ Rule!