

Sermon Series – All You Need is Love
Part 4 - “Love is Respectful”
Pastor Dale Campfield - September 11th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

We recently completed a sermon series in how to be a God Pleaser – by Living a Life of Faith. **Hebrews 11:6** “**Without faith, it is impossible to please God.**” Now what? Now that we know how to live by faith, what are we to do with it? The Bible tells us that if you are a follower of Christ, all that matters is your faith that makes you love other people! That’s what this next sermon series is all about. “All You Need is Love.”

Sermon Series: “All You Need is Love”

Theme Verse: Galatians 5:6 “If you are a follower of Christ Jesus all that matters is your faith that makes you love others.”

Today’s Sermon Title: Love is Respectful

We’re in this series “All You Need is Love,” and we’re looking at different aspects of love. This morning we’re going to talk about love is being respectful, showing respect to others.

Have you noticed in the world today the lack of respect that people show?

Illus: Joshua Bell – World Renowned Violinist

January 12, 2007 ... 7:51 in the morning; an experiment began ... sponsored by the Washington Post:

A young musician takes his position against a wall in the metro station of the Washington DC., subway. He is wearing jeans; a long-sleeved shirt, and a Washington National's baseball cap. He opens his violin case ... removes the instrument ... throws a few dollars into the case from his pocket as "seed money" ... and begins playing.

He plays for the next 43 minutes ... and during that time he performs six classical pieces – flawlessly!!

During that 43 minutes ... 1,097 people passed by, tossing in a total of \$32.17 into his violin case. Of that 1,097 people ... only seven paused longer than sixty seconds to listen to this performance ... of those seven who lingered ... only one recognized the violinist: Joshua Bell.

Three days prior – he had filled Boston's Symphony Hall where just "adequate" tickets sold for \$100 apiece. Two weeks later ... he would play for a standing-room-only audience in Bethesda, Maryland.

Joshua Bell's talents & artistry ... command an average of \$1,000 per minute – when performing. ... this day in the subway – he barely earned enough to pay for a pair of cheap shoes.

Now – you can't fault the instrument ... he was playing a Stradivarius worth 3.5 million dollars !! You can't fault the performance ... he flawlessly played some of Johann Sebastian Bach's best work !

Yet ... scarcely anyone noticed the presence of such artistry in this context ... flanked by a kiosk on one side ... and a shoe-shine stand on the other ... Who has time to notice beauty or value ... in the midst of such a hectic, self-absorbed & pre-occupied society ??

Most of those passer-by's ... cynically wrote off this entertainer as some typical, needy, dime-a-dozen musician ... who needed a few more cents to support his habit ... or ... to pay for a place to sleep.

We are living in a cynical ... rude ... self-consumed world!!

Cynicism is on the rise; common courtesy is not so common anymore; And ... it is not just a certain "age group"; it is not just a "racial divide"; it is not just "gender based" ... this is a "societal epidemic"!

Cynicism & rudeness seems to be the common attitude of our world!

And rudeness ... translates into a lack of respect! It seems that respect for other people; respect for property; respect for institutions ... is at an all time low!!

For example: In any election year, it seems perfectly acceptable to tear up the Opposing candidate with smear tactics, and if that does not work – just flat out lie about them!

Today, I want us to look at the avenue of love in regards to our giving and getting respect from people. People now days are just plain rude most of the time! They flip people off, yell at others for no reason at all, get mad, etc. We live in a rude society. If the Fruit of the Spirit is goodness, then we need to practice being good...and part of that is know how to give people respect and how to earn the respect of others.

Illus: News Stories of Rudeness

Recently we've seen a lot of stories in the news like this: A lady in Cambridge, Massachusetts was told by the bus driver that she couldn't smoke on the bus, so she beat him repeatedly with her umbrella... A man in an Atlanta restaurant was told that a wait for a table would be two hours so he slugged the hostess... A gas meter reader in Houston went to check the home gas meter and was shot in the stomach with a pellet gun by the resident. You heard the story here in Cincinnati where a man shot a young boy for walking through his yard!

There is no doubt about it, rudeness is on the rise. People are more abusive of each other, physically and verbally, than in any other time before. It seems that common courtesy is not so common any more.

1 Corinthians 13:5

"Love is not rude." Phillips translation says, *"Love has good manners."*

Question: What is rudeness?

Answer: It is simply a lack of respect for others. SELFISHNESS.

Rudeness reveals that I could care less about you. I'm only thinking of myself. It doesn't matter what anybody else thinks or whether it hurts you or not, I'm going to do what I want to do.

You can summarize rudeness in one word: selfishness. The world is getting more and more rude. The Bible says, *"Love is not rude."*

The remedy for rudeness is...RESPECT

WHY TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT?

1. Because God's Word says so.

1 Peter 2:17

"Show proper respect to everyone."

Circle "everyone". Everybody! Your kids, your husband/wife, the jerk at work, people I don't even know, your in-laws, republicans, democrats, unbelievers, atheists, government -- everybody!

2. Because God made everybody.

Psalm 8:5

"You, God, made man inferior only to yourself. You crowned him with glory and honor."

The Bible says that people are the crown of creation. Even the despicable, unlovely person, riffraff -- God says "I made him." Because we are all created by God, we all deserve respect. We tend to be polite to people we consider more important than us in the social status. We tend to be rude to people we think are below us in social status. But God says they're all Mine. Be respectful to everybody. Be respectful to the President and to the beggar on the street, the CEO and the guy who's homeless. God made them all.

3. Because Jesus died for everyone.

1 Peter 1:18-19

"God paid a ransom to save you. He paid for you with the precious life blood of Jesus."

That shows how valuable people are. The cross shows how valuable God considers people. I may not think much of that person but God does. He thought enough of them to send Jesus Christ to die for them. Jesus is going to be watching you to see how you treat people He died for. In Matthew 25 it says that at the judgment we're going to be judged how we treated other people. *"I was sick and you came and visited me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was in prison and you visited me."* We'll say, *"Lord, when did we do that to You?"* Jesus will say, *"Anytime you've done it to the least person, you did it to Me."* That's how important it is. Jesus died for everybody and God created everybody.

4. Because it shows that I know God.

How do you know if you're a real believer? You look at your relationships.

1 John 4:8

"If a person isn't loving and kind it shows that he doesn't know God." Why? *"God is love."*

I may have all the doctrines and beliefs straight, all the Bible verses down, if I don't have love it doesn't count. Jesus was gracious with people. He protected people's dignity. The Pharisees, one time, brought a lady who had been caught in the act of adultery. They threw her at the feet of Jesus. They were incredibly rude people. They had all the doctrine right but their rudeness was strong. Jesus, the first thing He did, was to protect her dignity. He defended her in front of them. He said, *"Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."* They all walked away and then in the privacy of one to one conversation He dealt with her sin. Jesus even gave respect to the most disrespected people in society. The Pharisees couldn't handle that. They said in Luke 15:2 this guy parties with sinners. He even eats with them. The most disrespected people were tax collectors, prostitutes and lepers. He befriended all of them. He treated them with dignity and respect and the Pharisees couldn't handle that.

If that's the way Jesus treated people, then if Jesus Christ is really in me, doesn't it make sense that that is the way I'm going to treat people? Yes. You may have all the right beliefs, but if you're right and you're rude -- you're wrong! Love is not rude. And he who doesn't have love doesn't know God.

5. Because I'll get back what I give.

5. Because I'll get back what I give.

Galatians 6:7

"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."

This is the principle of sowing and reaping. It's the reciprocal law of life: whatever you plant, you're going to harvest; whatever you sow, you're going to reap; what goes around, comes around. The point is this: whatever in life you need, give it away. That's how you get it. Would you like to be respected by other people, then you need to give respect to other people. What you give out is what you're going to get back. If you want to be treated graciously by other people, then you need to treat people graciously. You want people to smile at you, then you smile at them. But if you're rude to people, what are people going to be to you? Rude. Whatever you sow you're going to reap.

How do I give and get respect? The way I give it is the way I get it.

And the way you get it is by the way you give it. The Bible says, *"Love is not rude."* One of the things about courtesy is that it makes life so much easier and happier too. Emerson said, "Manners are the happy way to do things." Courteous people are happy people. Rude people are never happy people. They are always miserable. They've got a big chip on their shoulder. They go around angry all the time.

Proverbs 11:17

"You do yourself a favor when you are kind."

It never pays to be rude. It never gets the intended results. Never. Any business knows this. A successful business knows this. If you don't treat customers with respect you don't get them back. Many of you are business people. If you want your business to shine it's simple: treat people with respect. Regardless of what your product is, focus on customer service and treat people with kindness, courtesy and respect. That will make your company stand out so brightly in society you won't believe it! There are very few courtesies companies today. If you focus on service, rather than your product, you'll succeed. What you give out is what you're going to get back. You'll get back what you give out.

6. Because it works!

An attitude of understanding and respect is better than an attitude of demanding.

- be understanding not demanding.

Luke 6:31

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

That's the Golden Rule. Do you want people to be demanding of you? No. You want them to be understanding of you. So you treat other people the way you want to be treated. Be understanding, not demanding.

How do you treat people who serve you? One of the great tests of Christian character is how do you treat a waitress or waiter? They say some of the rudest people they know are people who have Bible studies in their restaurant. They don't leave any tips and they're rude. How do you treat your secretary, or employees, or that fast food person who doesn't speak English? Are you understanding or are you demanding?

Eric Hoffer: "Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."

The guy who's trying to be macho, cool, strong so he's rude to people. He's weak. Rudeness is always an indication of weakness.

The secret of great service is to treat people with respect. Be considerate to their feelings. Be sympathetic to their stresses. When you're dealing with a waitress, she may have had fifteen cranky people before you and she's not feeling good and she's had a tough day, ...

Be understanding not demanding.

Proverbs 16:21

"A wise mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words the more persuasive he is."

Would you like to be more persuasive with your children. Would you like to be more persuasive with your husband or wife or boss or employees? The Bible says the way you're persuasive is by being pleasant. I'm never persuasive when I'm abrasive. You catch more flies with honey than you do vinegar. It is politeness that changes people, not rudeness. Be understanding, not demanding.

The best place to practice this is in your home. Often we are more polite to strangers than we are to the very people we live with all the time. We say things that are rude and act rudely to the people we love the most. Courtesy is showing love in the little things. Emerson said, "Courtesy is made up of little sacrifices." That's what manners are -- little sacrifices. It's the little things that irritate us. Rudeness can kill a marriage. Do you remember how polite you were when you were dating?

I heard about a couple who actually got an annulment on the basis of the husband's rudeness. Evidently his wife went to court and claimed that her husband burped all the time and that it was annoying to her. The wild thing about it is the judge granted the annulment on the basis of the fact that if he really loved her and if it really annoyed her that much, then he would do something to try to take care of all that burping. And he should have been more considerate.

Remember: All You Need is Love – God's Love. Use that Love to be respectful!

And when you do: You watch...you wait... you'll see!