

Do You Respect Your Parents?

What is respect:

Respect is an action word. When you respect someone you will treat them with honor.

Scripture:

1 Peter 2:17 "Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king" (NLT).

Proverbs 13:13 "Anyone who hates what he is taught will pay for it later. But a person who respects a command will be rewarded" (NIRV).

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm can fool you. Beauty fades. But a woman who has respect for the Lord should be praised" (NIRV).

Choose which option best fits your response.

1. When you walk into a room, you don't usually acknowledge your parent/s:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
2. You slam the door when your parent/s makes you upset:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
3. When your parent/s asks you to do something, you roll your eyes:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
4. In the past, when you were angry with your parent/s, you told them to shut up or leave you alone:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
5. When your friends are sitting around talking about how dorky or annoying their parents are, you eventually join in with some stories of your own:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
6. You tend to make your family late for activities you know are important to your parent/s:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
7. The tone of voice you use when you talk to your parent/s on the phone is annoyed, short, or sarcastic:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
8. It takes your parent/s a few times of asking you to do something before you'll get up to do it:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never
9. You are not allowed to go on the Internet without your parent's supervision, but you find yourself in a position where you won't get caught so you decide to do it anyway:
 - a. Regularly
 - b. Sometimes
 - c. Never



Results

Mostly As: You need to read Ephesians 6:1-3 where it talks about honoring your father and mother! Take some time to think about the tone of your voice and your body language says about the level of respect you have for your parents. You probably won't agree with everything your parents say or do, but it's still your job as their child to submit to their authority. That means when you're frustrated, take a deep breath before you speak and talk to them in a calm voice and without dramatic body language!

Mostly Bs: You do a pretty good job of respecting your parents but you still have some work to do! Which of these questions really stuck with you? How can you make improvements in how you respect your parents in those areas?

Mostly Cs: You are a respectful child to your parents! You may not always agree with them, but you handle yourself in a way that shows that you honor them and honor God. Keep it up!

Here's a great Bible verse to memorize that talks about respect. "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" Colossians 3:20, NIV.

Things to think about:

1. How does Scripture say I should treat my parent/s?
2. What one thing could I do today to show my parent/s respect?
3. Do I need to ask my parent/s for forgiveness?
4. How do I feel when others don't show me respect?

Actions Steps:

1. **Read Luke 2:41-52.** Did you know that God asks us all to respect our parent/s in His Word? In this story in Luke you will read about how Jesus obeyed His parents when returning home from Jerusalem. Although Jesus had a purpose to remain in Jerusalem, the respect and obedience to His parents came first.
2. **Work on showing respect to your parent/s.** You can talk about how much you respect your parents but until you take action they are not going to see results. Try to do one thing each day before they ask you: take the trash out as soon as you get home, clean your room before you go out to play, or straighten up the living room so your parent doesn't have to. The more you work at it the easier it will become!
3. **Ask for forgiveness:** Admitting you are wrong is not an easy thing. We all have times that we wish we would have done things differently. Ask the Lord to forgive you and to help you to be more respectful in the future. Then apologize to your parent/s for the way you treated them.
4. **Think before you speak.** Sometimes our first reaction to a situation is not the best. If you find yourself wanting to say things that are rude or disrespectful it is best to just keep your mouth shut. Take some time to think about the situation and ask the Lord to help you respond in a way that pleases Him. Many times if you just give yourself a moment to calm down and process what occurred, your attitude towards the situation will change.

