CIVILITY CORNER

SHOW RESPECT

When I went to again research the word respect, I found really two distinctive definitions. The first is” to admire some one deeply as a result of their abilities, qualities or achievement”. This definition is the one I learned as a child. Respect your elders, men in uniform, your teachers, the flag. There are limits on who is to be respected and who is not.

The second states “due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others”. Here we are to respect every human being, animal, plant and all on the earth and beyond. While it is clearly important to honor those who have acted in an outstanding way, it is necessary that we address all in our world with respect. This is even more evident when we trace the origins of the word. From Latin “respestus” that has the meaning of attention, regard, consideration. We are to listen with positive regard to any other person.

To begin to show respect to others we must first give ourselves respect. Be good and take care of yourself. When you are not pleased with yourself, rather than put downs, look at what you could do to change the result.

With your positive attitude it becomes easier to show respect to others. You want to treat them, as you are treating yourself. You can affirm their opinions, emphasize with different perspectives and show gratitude for their input.

Here are some additional signs that you are showing another respect. You are honest with the person. You can disagree with another person. You ask their opinion. You keep your word. You do not waste their time.

Finally remember as you show respect, others will follow your example.

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