

“Can Society Function Without Respect?”

764 words

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Not every society can thrive. In order for a community to be successful, there has to be respect. For instance, think of a family with a rebellious child. The entire family is dysfunctional because of the lack of honor shown towards the parents. Siblings will show less deference after seeing what the other did. This causes the family to seem less pleasant to every member. Just by looking at the birds in the sky, you can see the respect animals have for one another. Birds migrating in the fall and spring months form a recognizable V-shaped pattern, with a specific bird as the point, for their traveling. Since even birds show respect for the leader of their flock, shouldn't we do so also? Every society needs great amounts of respect in order to be accomplished because it is key to making a community, it makes people feel important, and it shows maturity.

Respect is necessary in order to have a community. A community is "a unified body of individuals" (Merriam-Webster) which implies that in order to have a community, a single common goal and people working together to reach that goal is necessary. That is difficult when there are some group members thinking that they can succeed by themselves, thus the need for respect. As an actor states, "If we lose . . . respect for each other, this is how we finally die," (Angelou). Death can be rephrased as "the state of being no longer alive,"(Merriam-Webster) which is what happens to a group without effective leadership. It cannot reach its full potential. For example, think of Nazi Germany. Even though they were evil, they had respect so their society survived until its collapse in 1945 (Atlantic) which was most likely due to not having a leader to show reverence toward. People need to show respect to be one strong community.

A group of people needs respect because it makes individuals feel like they are valued and important to something bigger than themselves. An author once said, "Once I started to value and respect my characters, I could really hear them," (Wilson). The beginning of his statement, "Once I started to value and respect," shows how when you value people, it displays the respect you have for that individual. That means that when you are kind to others, you feel good and the person that you are nice to feels good also. The middle of his statement, "I could *really* [emphasis added] hear them," means that when you respect people, you understand them for what they are saying and not for how they may seem. Albert Einstein captures how there is a fine line between how people should be treated and how they should not when he says, "Everyone should be respected as an individual but no one idolized," (Einstein). In his remark, he conveys that no one should be treated like they are less important than another, but also that people should not favor others and consider them more valuable than anyone else. In other words, no one should be put on a pedestal or lowered down to lower than you would like to be treated.

In the same way, respect shows maturity. As a philosopher said, "Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?" (Confucius). This means that respect is a sign that we are human and different from the animals that roam the earth. The first part of his statement, "Without feelings of respect . . . ", tells that respect is a feeling and should come from the heart and not just be something you do because you have to. Moreover, true respect is a child honoring its parents, as an author said, "A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents

will not have true respect for anyone,”(Graham) showing that appreciation for those above you should start with parents and then go on to others. If you do not appreciate the people that brought you into this world, you will not appreciate anyone who did not.

In the final analysis, a group needs respect to be a community, it makes people feel important, and shows maturity. Think again of how Nazi Germany thrived for a while because of respect based on fear. People feel important when they are treated like they are equal to someone else. One of the ways that respect shows maturity is by making it evident that you are above animals and other things that are on the earth. So, no, communities cannot thrive without respect. Respect is the one word that holds a group together.

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