

PR WISE CHOICES

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Last month we looked at weapons of warfare. I have been really blessed by proclaiming scripture over the last month. When a believer reads the Word of God aloud, things move spiritually. It brings a palpable presence of God around one. Recently my Men's Small Group proclaimed scriptures then silently reflected on God while listening to worship music. It was refreshing to just stop and focus on God as Father.

This month we have gathered material on "Respect". There are different views on respect so hopefully these articles will cause you to process this more. Most biblical references are commanding respect for God, His law and the sabbath etc. Among the scattering of other references is Ephesians 5:33 about love and respect between husband and wife. What does this really mean?

Thanks for standing with Promise Keepers in the Battle for Men's Souls.

John

John Subritzky



When we practise respect for ourselves and others, we may be called to be different from others, and as Billy Graham said, **"When a brave man takes a stand the spines of others are stiffened"**.

Each month we have extra Men of Integrity devotional booklets available. If you are not currently subscribed to Men of Integrity and would like a sample for yourself or a friend (or you would like to read the rest of Chip's story) please phone or email the Promise Keepers office.

RESPECT

Why is respect such a big deal for men? We ask ourselves "Have I got what it takes?" and part of the answer is reflected back to us by others who acknowledge our character, talents and abilities. Identity is tied up in how we see ourselves and how much others respect us.

As a Christian man, how we feel God sees us is also important. Ever since God told Adam and Eve to leave the garden, one of the biggest issues for men has been feelings of rejection. Add in some guilt and shame and the result can be paralysis by passivity. Self-confidence evaporates and we look inward at our failings instead of outward to God's love and acceptance. God gives us the confidence to move forward and take risks. He can use a broken and contrite heart. He uses the humble. He gives us our self-respect.

"Everything you were taught can be put into a few words: respect and obey God! This is what life is all about." Ecclesiastes 12:13 CEV

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJ

Perhaps respect is so important to us because we were made in the image of God .

With God on our side, we definitely have what it takes to succeed.



MEN OF INTEGRITY

The devotional has lived up to its high standard again in the bi-monthly booklet issued in January. A reading from the 20th February entry speaks specifically about our topic this month of respect.

Chip Ingram takes a stand about the licentious way other male teachers are discussing female students in the lunch room at school. Due to the negative reaction he then avoids going to lunch at all. Then he thinks, *"so what if they don't like me... I can't control that... but they do need to respect me"*. He continues, *"I went back. I didn't have to flap the flag of my faith in their faces, but people knew I had boundaries"*.

RECOGNISING RESPECT

By Steve Taylor



As a man who regards her man as a pretty good bloke, my wife Deborah will regularly tell me that she loves me.

Now, this is a very nice affirmation for a man to hear, but for me and perhaps many other men, being “loved” in a relationship is secondary to ensuring that we have sufficiently earned our spouses’ respect for us as men.

Respect is a little word which is accompanied by a large meaning – especially for men.

Ephesians 5:33 exhorts wives to respect their husbands, but this verse also exhorts husbands to love their wives as themselves. Ladies, we know that you love us (it comes with the territory), but what we really want to know is - do you respect us?, and how can we as men ensure that we maximise our chances of earning the respect of our women?

As men, we earn respect by setting boundaries for ourselves, whilst recognising the boundaries of others; we earn respect by being consistent in our mood and temperament; we earn respect by doing what we say we are going to do, when we say we are going to do it; we earn respect by behaving in safe and predictable ways; we earn respect by keeping our word and honouring a confidence; we earn respect by showing solidarity and support to our loved ones in times of both contentment and crisis; and we earn respect by honestly recognising and communicating our limits and vulnerabilities to others we trust.

Yes, as a husband and a Christian, I could claim that I am “the head of my house”, and that, therefore, my wife Deborah “should” respect me by default. However, if I have earned neither her trust nor her respect for me over time, (by first loving her the way I am exhorted to in Scripture) then I may end up “heading” myself right out of my marriage, as Deborah will not be “led” by someone she does not feel safe and secure with, and this is both a reasonable and fair position for her to take with me.

Additionally, I do well to recognise that Deborah has strengths and talents that are different to mine (for example, she is both a better driver, and more practical than I am), and thus, in the spirit of “submitting, one to another” (Ephesians 5:21), I willingly defer to these strengths and talents, an act of respect towards Deborah by me, in and of itself.

And of course, being a man, it also means I get to have a wee sleep on the long trips away...

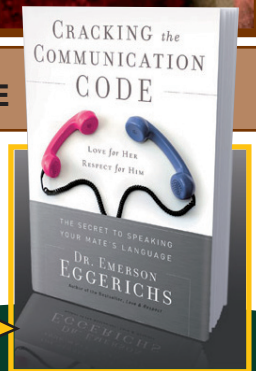
Abridged. Go to www.promisekeepers.org.nz/my_integrity.html for full article. Steve Taylor is the Director of 24-7 Ltd, a counselling, supervision, and mediation private practice located in Mt Eden, Auckland. Go to www.24-7.org.nz for more information.



NEXT MONTH

The April newsletter and DVD will feature **WORK** and **FINANCE**

Cracking the Communication Code. It’s the number one question couples are asking today: “*how can we communicate better?*” In this follow-up to his book, *Love and Respect*, Dr Eggerichs provides practical and biblical solutions. Apply the concepts introduced in this book, and it will make an amazing difference to how you react and interact with each other. \$22.00+p&p



Dunedin 25-26 July
Christchurch 15-16 August
Tauranga 29-30 August
Wellington 12-13 September
Auckland 10-11 October

REGISTER EARLY!