

Is your child respecting you? If not, you certainly need to teach respect: don't forget you are the parent and he is the child. Children showing respect for a parent or for anyone else in their life is important and biblical. It makes all the difference in the adults they become.

You might ask yourself, how do I teach respect? It is better to teach this from the age they begin understanding than to wait until they are teenagers, but it is never too late to begin. Children follow your actions. If you show respect for your spouse, for your friends, etc. then they will follow your example. If you are constantly yelling at your spouse or even your child, or belittling either, calling names, you are teaching disrespect to the child.

See that your children treat each other with respect at home. Insist and model no name calling, no yelling, then when they leave the home they will only know to respect others and to also want respect in return. As you go through each day, tell your child when he isn't being respectful. When you are perhaps out in public, maybe in line at the grocery, treat others with respect and he will see how this is accomplished: do not be rude to the cashier as she checks your groceries. If she does make an error, ask for a correction in a pleasant manner. Now if your child is speaking to someone out in public in a manner that you do not approve of, please take your child aside and tell him the correct way to handle himself. Do not belittle your child in front of others. Have a quiet place to talk, even at the mall you can sit on a bench and quietly talk and tell him what you expect of him.

Enjoy being a parent and have the respect of your child: it's really not hard to accomplish. However, you need to start today, not put it off until tomorrow.