

The Three Commandments

of Empowered Student Ministries

1. **Respect God** – Get involved in prayer, worship, and the message. Take care of God's house.

Proverbs 1:7 NIV

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

We should fear God!!! We don't need to fear that He will mistreat us, because He always treats us right. If we are in right relationship w/ God, we "fear" Him in the sense that we respect Him, and Honor Him w/ our lives. Only if we are disobedient to God, should we be afraid of Him, because He is a righteous God, and He will judge sin. (Through Christ we have grace and forgiveness, as we live lives of Love for God.)

Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment.

One of the ways we show our respect and love for God is through praise and worship. The Bible says, "Come let us bow down in worship..." (Psalm 95:6) When we worship we lift God up (raising our hands), and we tell him through our singing how much we love Him and need Him.

When we listen to the Word of God, and search its pages for truth... that also shows God respect. It shows Him that we want to know what He has to say to us.

Respect God by getting involved in prayer, worship, and the message of His Word.

Another way we Respect God, is by Respecting the House of God. A church building isn't our house... its God's house. God is the owner of everything here, not us. He lets us use it, but He wants us to take care of it.

2. *Respect Your Leaders – Honor them and obey their requests.*

Romans 13:1-2 NIV

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [2] Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Think about what this scripture is saying.

ASK: WHO put people in places of leadership???

ASK: If we rebel against leaders that God has put in charge, who are we also rebelling against???

Respecting authority shows respect for God. If we respect leaders, then we will do what they ask us to do, and we will honor them w/ our words and actions. If we treat them right, they'll treat us right...

3. *Respect Each Other – Treat people how you want to be treated.*

Matthew 22:39 NIV

... 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Jesus Himself referred to this is the second greatest commandment. The first is Love God. The second is Love Others.

Ask: What do you think it means to “love your neighbor as yourself?”

“Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.”
–the Golden Rule

Treat people how you want to be treated. Since all of us like when people are kind to us and say nice things to us... that’s what we should do for each other.

ASK: What are some examples of things that we might do that DON’T show respect for others???

- calling names, using foul language
- hitting, “petering”, shoving
- yelling at each other (instead of talking)
- talking bad about somebody “smack talk”

Because these things DON’T show respect for others, we as Christians, should not act that way.

When we show RESPECT for others, they’ll be more likely to respect us.

RESPECT GOD, RESPECT YOUR LEADERS, RESPECT
EACH OTHER... R-E-S-P-E-C-T