

The LOST ART OF RESPECT

— by Peter Hammond

Today's child-centred parenting all too often fails to teach children respect. Seldom do we see respect for God, His Word and His worship; respect for people and for their property; and also respect for God's creation. Ultimately lack of respect comes from lack of love for God and for our neighbour. Today in so many ways we see cruel disrespect for elderly parents who are frequently abandoned in old age homes and neglected. "Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old." Prov 23:22

Nothing in nature is equal

Egalitarianism (the enforced equality of everyone) is humanism. It says that everybody is equal. But everybody is not equal. Zebras are not equal to lions. Pigeons are not equal to eagles. We should honour our father and our mother and we should respect our elders - we are not equal to them, even though most teenagers think they are. "The eye that mocks

In today's modern world, respect and chivalry are antiquated concepts, even amongst Christians.

his father and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out and the young eagles will eat it." Prov 30:17.

Winston Churchill once declared: "Socialism could only work in Heaven, where it is not needed, or in hell, where they already have it." There is nothing egalitarian about the Bible. Equality before the Law is commanded (Num 15:15-16). However, no one can enforce equality of effort, or equality of results. Nobody on earth is equal. Not in height, not in size, nor in appearances. People are not equal in intelligence, talents, motivation, dependability, competence, trustworthiness, productivity, devotion, dedication, capabilities or achievements.

The Law of God commands respect

The Ten Commandments effectively forbids egalitarianism. We are not to covet what others have.

"You shall rise before the grey haired and honour the presence of an old man, and fear your God; I am the Lord." Lev 19:32

We are not to steal other people's property, nor are we to dishonour our parents or other superiors. Neither may we lie, gossip or slander others. This is always a temptation towards those who are 'better' than us. Instead of an attitude of entitlement we need to re-discover the lost art of respect.

We are commanded: "Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Heb 13:17

Examples of men honouring women

On 26 February, 1852, one of the worst naval disasters occurred off the coast of South Africa. HMS Birkenhead, an iron paddlewheel frigate of 1 400 tonnes, struck a rockshelf off Danger Point, near

Man's persistent quest for equality has led us into a culture of disrespect and rebellion.

present-day Hermanus, and began to sink rapidly. The Birkenhead was carrying Regiments, which had distinguished themselves in conflicts from the Napoleonic Wars through to the Crimean War. That night the Birkenhead had 638 people on board, including 138 naval officers and crew and 480 army officers and enlisted men under the command of Lt. Col. Alexander Seton. Also on board were the wives and children of those members of the military who were married. The order went out: "Women and children first!"

As the women and children were rowed away to safety, the horses were cut loose so that they could attempt to swim the over 3km to shore. Captain Robert Salmond gave the order to "Abandon Ship!" adding "Every man for himself!" At this Col. Seton shouted: "Stand fast!" He instructed the men to remain in their ranks and go down with the ship. Should they attempt to make for the lifeboats

