

Dr. Stan's Biblical Perspective

“A Culture Of Disrespect And Disloyalty!”

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Those of you who know me are very much aware of the fact that I have spent many years traveling in other countries of the world, especially Africa. As I have traveled in these other countries I have paid particular attention to the various expressions of respect and loyalty that I see given to older people, and to those who are in ministry. I must tell you that I am utterly amazed at what I have seen in these other countries, and then when I return to America, I am totally embarrassed. America has become a country of disrespect and total disloyalty for almost everyone, but especially those who are senior citizens and those who are in the ministry. Yet, I can tell you that has not always been true in our beloved America.

When I was growing up as a boy, I was taught to respect my elders, ladies, teachers, policemen, doctors, nurses, and anyone in authority or those who were older. Yet today, we have dumbed down our society until there is absolutely no respect for anyone. Our children come into our churches and run around like they are wild and we never discipline them. They get up and go out of the worship services every time they have a little urge, and then run back in to make themselves seen and heard. And, when it comes to preachers and school administrators, if children and youth don't like something these people do or say, then they just flat out scream with profanity and total disregard for the principle of respect and honor. They believe the world has been created just for them and them alone. They believe they are free to do whatever they want, and it doesn't matter how many people get run over in the process. And then, our school administrators will not tighten up the rules for fear of these horrible misled and wicked groups like the ACLU. So, this culture of disrespect has evolved to a point to where kids don't learn, they show very little appreciation for what they have been given, and they just believe they can do whatever they want whenever they want, and they totally disregard law and order, respect for those in authority and those who are older than them. In other words, we have developed a culture of total anarchy and this has been the death blow to every civilization down through history. I believe unless we have a revival

in America that will bring us back on our knees in brokenness and humility, America will fall from within.

America doesn't have to fall if we will repent and turn back to God. And, when we turn back to God, we will see once again respect for the senior citizens and all others that are in authority. There will be little disrespect for pastors and church leaders, because this loyalty and respect will be bred into our culture. Oh, it might not be "cool" to respect those around us, but I assure you this is the way God planned it. Pay attention to the following verses I am going to give you. **Leviticus 19:32 "Thou shall rise up before the hoary (gray) head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."** Then read about respect for those pastors who do a good job. **I Timothy 5:17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."** Folks, we must never allow ourselves to become a part of this disrespectful culture that is all around us today. Instead, we need to honor the older people, respect those in authority, and we need to especially respect and be loyal to those who have made an impact on our lives in a spiritual way. And, if you are a pastor, you better never forget those God has placed in your life to help bring you to where you are. When this happens, you will eventually act like you have arrived and you will lose your teachable spirit, a thing that will ultimately bring you down!

Just the other day, I was preaching in a large prison here in North Carolina and I was taken back by the number of young men in that prison. The man in charge of the prison told me that over 50% of the people in that prison were there for sexual crimes, and many others were there because of drug related offenses. As I looked into the faces of these hundreds of young men, I thought about how this life of crime began, and how their lives are now wasted unless they can find Jesus. It began with parents who would not discipline their kids out of love, and with kids who wanted to be free to do anything they wanted to do. And, it began with a lot of disrespect for others and those in authority. Many of the people that I saw in the prison told me that they use to be in church, but then left and messed up their lives. Imagine that, from the pew to prison Why? Just simply because of lives that started a down hill fall because there was very little respect for authority and probably less loyalty to their family members. But, let me say one more thing. All of the failures in the world by family members who didn't do their jobs can't take away the personal responsibility of every person to start out fearing God, respecting authority, being loyal to those who were older than

they, and these failures of parents doesn't give an individual the right to hurt others for the sake of their own lustful satisfaction. May God help each of us to be a part of the solution by helping to put respect and loyalty back into our culture.