

“Can Society Function Without Respect?”

777 Words

The Birth of Society

First of all, what is the meaning of society? The story of Bob the Caveman can illustrate both its concept and history. Bob had just narrowly escaped a hungry lion. As the breathless caveman sat down to nibble on a piece of fruit, he made a groundbreaking realization. “If I tripped, lion eat me!” He exclaimed with terrible grammar. Bob glanced at his buddy, Joe. “But if I trip with Joe, lion might eat him (not me)!” He, like our ancestors, soon discovered that if he lived, ate, and hunted in a group, he might increase his chance of survival because it would benefit his security. That is the basis of society: a collective group of people that live with some amount of order. As society developed, so did its system. Humans began to specialize, working together to advance further. Unfortunately, there is one component to society that, if removed, would make this beautiful system go awry.

Respecting Society

Life is comprised of experiences, which are influenced largely by respect. Respecting others improves how they treat you and enables cooperation, or a system of people aiding each other. Let us take the example of the USA, which is a blend of millions of unique cultures. The success of our nation depends on us to embrace its diversity and collaborate. At the same time, bad people can prevent us from exceling by creating mayhem. Thus, heeding leaders and laws is crucial to preventing chaos. When respect for others is absent, all scruples before harming or dissing others disappear. Those

disrespected individuals would become dissatisfied. Society would rapidly fall downhill because people need to quench their needs and wants for it to function. In other words, society is nothing but the well-being of people, and if that is eliminated, nothing remains.

Self-Respect

Perhaps more essential than respecting others is respect for oneself. Mahatma Gandhi once proclaimed, "I cannot conceive of a greater loss than the loss of one's self-respect." Self-respect is the notion that you are entitled to fulfillment and success. Think about it as the fuel for willpower. Humans need a will, if not a reason, to motivate themselves. Someone deprived of a will would listlessly live on autopilot. Every one of their decisions would likely be based off of pure habit. They would constantly feel about ten times worse than someone who had no food or sleep for three days straight. Even if that person did not take their own life out of depression, they would be unable to enjoy life at any given moment. Self-respect gives energy and motivation that shapes ourselves.

Dangers of Disrespect

In certain third world countries, people without basic necessities have to beg, eat trash, and live in filth. There is hardly any respect for these "untouchables", yet don't these nations move forward? On the surface, it might seem so. However, I myself have recently traveled to a developing country, and the lack of communication between people of different economic backgrounds was quite evident. Ignoring any person because of their differences can be risky. It is possible that those people have revolutionary ideas and could contribute a great amount to the community if given the chance.

Another common misconception is respecting leaders of society. Many postulate that respecting a destructive government is more harmful than breaking free of his or her oppressive regime. Historically, this is exactly what Colonial America ended up doing successfully due to the tyranny of King George III. Nonetheless, when the king repeatedly disrespected his subjects, the Americans had to magnify their respect for each other to combat him and come out as the victors. Disrespecting a disrespectful person is not necessary; two wrongs do not make a right. It just creates a hostile environment that is prone to dysfunction.

Mutual Prosperity

Universally, it can be said that respecting others grants us order, cooperation, and value for others. Self-respect brings the more fundamental life and happiness. Precious time and energy are constantly wasted due to contempt. From a more overall perspective, mutual respect in general can be seen as integral to any society. It allows society to advance through ideas and opinions exchanged by its people. Everyone is comfortable sharing only because they trust and respect each other. This establishes a group connection, encouraging further discussion and better results.

Not only does respect induce contribution, but it also stimulates an overall feeling of satisfaction and tolerance that serves to bring peace. While we may never know how to make respect an everlasting habit to connect ourselves, we can certainly try. When thoughts flow and understanding develops, the invisible bonds that connect a society strengthen.

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