



**Preparing For The New
Year With A New
Purpose**

Eph. 5:15-17



“Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do.” (NLT)



What Does God Want?

YOU!!!

Total Surrender

Romans 6:13; “Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use you whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.” (NLT)

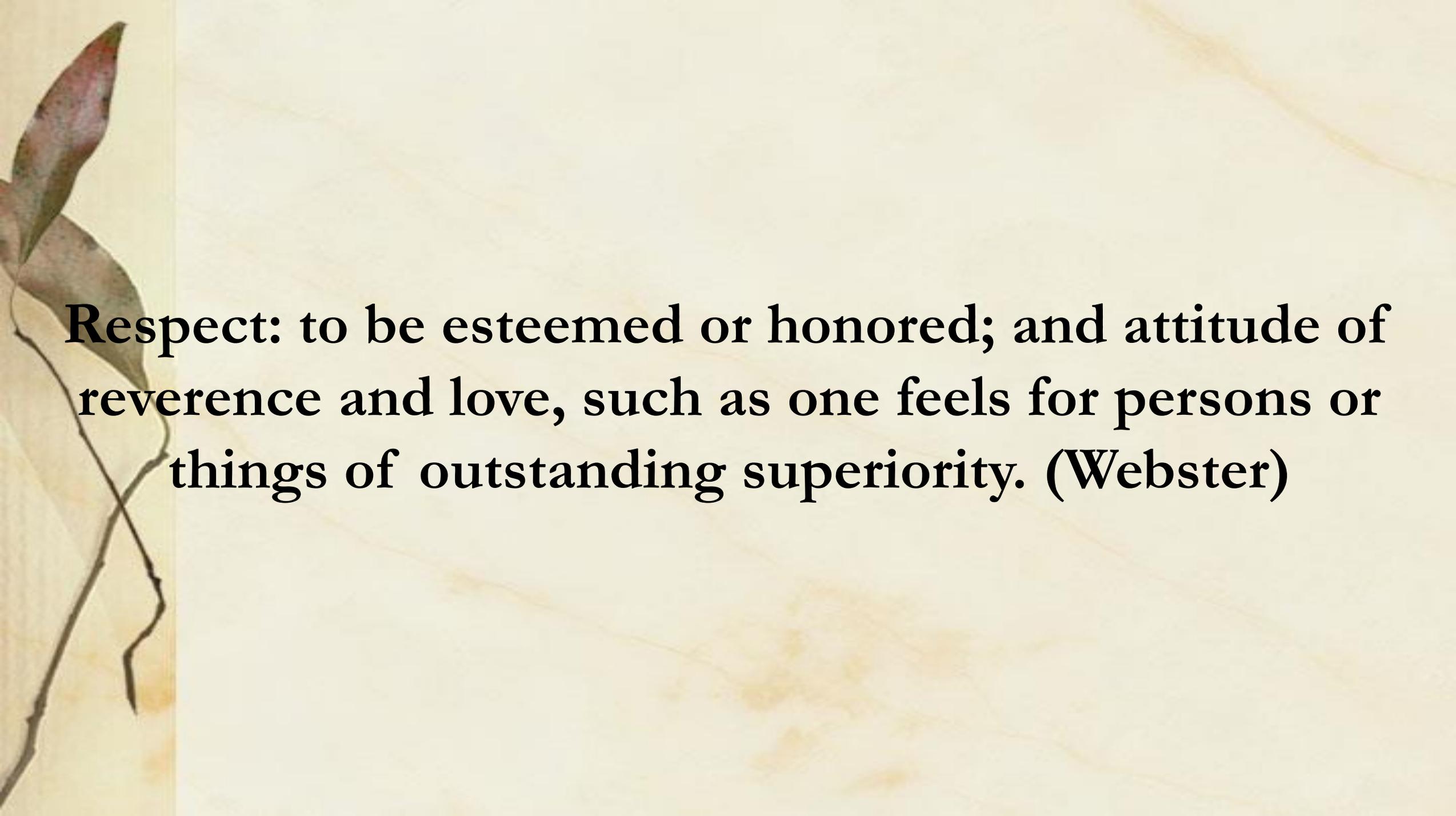


Romans 12:1-2; “And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy, the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you.”

(LB)

Total Respect:

**“This is what the Lord your God wants you to do:
Respect the Lord and do what He has told you to do.
Love Him. Serve the Lord your God with your whole
being.” Deut. 10:12 (NCV)**



Respect: to be esteemed or honored; and attitude of reverence and love, such as one feels for persons or things of outstanding superiority. (Webster)



Total Abandonment of Self

“In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”

Proverbs 3:6 (LB)



“So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For your Father knows perfectly well that you need them, and He will give them to you if you give Him first place in your life and live as He wants you to.” Matt. 6:31-33 (LB)



What Does It Take?

Commitment!!!



Discipline:

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

1 Tim. 4:7 (NASB)



We must stay spiritually fit:

“Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.” 1 Tim. 4:7 (LB)

How?

“Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress.” Heb. 12:1 (NLT)

“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Matt. 10:41 (NIV)



Why Should We Do It?



Because He died for us:

“He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Cor. 5:15



Because He has freed us from our sins and forgiven us of our failures and filled us with His kindness.

“And now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich His kindness is, as shown in all He has done for us through Jesus Christ.” Eph. 2:7 (LB)



Because of the abundant life that He has provided for us.

John 10:10; “The thief’s purpose is to steal, kill and destroy, My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.” (LB)

“We beg you, please don’t squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us.” 2 Cor. 6:1
(Msg)



“ Lord, I have heard the news about you; I am amazed at what you have done. Lord, do great things once again in our time; make those things happen again in our own days.” Habakkuk 3:2

And Lord use Me!!!