A Question of Respect (Or, Grown-Ups and Their Double Standards)

Conscious Path – Hilary Jackson *Pathways #43*, page 6



Talking Points

- Hillary Jackson wanted to write a piece on respect and eventually came up with the idea that "questions of respect are tied inextricably to questions about power." (6) How do you, personally, relate the two?
- ❖ In the western mainstream culture children don't seem to be shown a great deal of respect. Children's wishes generally aren't paid much attention.
- What good really comes of "respect me just because I am your elder"? What about when parents try to create respect rooted in fear?
- If we tend to respect the people we aspire to be like, how can we offer this to our children?
- ❖ Jackson asks, "So how do I live a life of someone worthy of respect? As with most things, I probably need to start with me. Do I respect myself? That question leads to another: Does the life I have created feel like it respects me?" (7)
- If you find yourself constantly apologizing to your children, are you actually respecting them and their wishes?
- ❖ Hillary Jackson brings up the idea of community support/extended family support that all human families require. She mentions that our culture's nuclear family (Mom, Dad and the kids) forces us to miss out on that communal support system. When you're tired and stressed and living in a nuclear family how does this play a part in the respect you give your family? How does it play a part in the amount of respect they have for you?
- ❖ Does the respect we give to adults have a different quality to it than what we give children? Why? Is this right? Is there some level of maturity people reach when they are suddenly allowed to get the same level of respect as other human beings?
- ❖ Does the level of respect you have for your own parents affect your own relationship with your children? What do you respect your parents for if at all?

Resources

Full references for each article are available at http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/references.html

Teresa Graham Brett's, of Parenting for Social Change, article on power and parenting. "How Power Distorts Our Parenting Practices: Using Critical Reflection"

http://www.parentingforsocialchange.com/critical-reflection.html

Peter Gray's article "In Relationships, Respect May Be Even More Crucial than Love" http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/freedom-learn/201208/in-relationships-respect-may-be-even-more-crucial-love

Pam Leo's article "Teaching Children Respect" http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Parenting/teaching-children-respect.html