

“Can Society Function Without Respect?”

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In today's world, people have begun to lose the basic human quality of respect. The cause can be simply inferred as the polarization of personal beliefs. This downfall of respect is in its early stages at the moment. Although, at the rate the loss of respect is spreading, soon respect will become redundant to the conscience of society. If society lost all respect, would it be capable of functioning? The clear answer being, no it could not function. This conclusion can be drawn from a few facts about what is created from respect. These facts being that respect is the foundation for the desire to help others in their troubles, the self-restraint of humans, and the concept of peace among the nations.

The aspect of helping people is a major part of our world, we all need a little help at some point in our lives. If an average person with any source of morals sees a car crash, with no one helping the people directly involved in it, it would be generally expected that they would at least call 911. This stems from the human quality of respect, the first thing an average person thinks of in this situation would be, “What if that was me?”. This is due to the deep integration of respect in an average person's mind. Without this help as soon as one digs their hole a little too deep, they would only have themselves to find their way out. This would prove to be quite difficult as in some situations we as humans, require the help of others. Some results of a decrease in others helping each other would be an increase in poverty and homelessness, an increase in preventable deaths, and finally a decrease in academically successful

children. After these side-effects would've taken place, the world would be a shadow of its former self. The increase in homelessness and preventable deaths would lead to the debate for more legislation to help these people, leading to fierce rivalries and possible violence. The decrease in academically successful children would lead to a dumber population. Along with these, the self-restraint of humans would also disappear.

Our self-restraint stems from our respect for others, without respect our self-restraint would be non-existent. If we had no self-restraint we would only make decisions that would benefit ourselves. With everyone only benefiting themselves, life would become a constant fight to gain the upper hand. We can already observe a small model of what this would be like, by looking into the world of business. In business if one is in a position of power they would do anything to keep it, even if that meant they had to destroy the lives of others in the process. If this transitioned to a global level, society would not be able to function. At that point, humans would become more akin to animals than we've ever been, due to the competition. In a more extreme case of the loss of self-restraint, it could possibly lead to a form of anarchy. People would be unable to perceive if a decision would be inappropriate or at worst illegal. With a large group of people making these blinded decisions it could leave the country in shambles. This anarchy would not only occur in the Americas but spread to the entire world.

Without respect for others in the world, any country or group of countries that saw the destruction of another necessary to succeed them would execute the action without any hesitation. This would mean that wars similar to the world wars would be

frequent if not common. Constant wars like this would destroy nearly all of what the current civilizations have built. Most major cities, buildings, and even treaties would completely disintegrate. Like the business world, this would encourage “over-competitiveness”. Meaning these countries and alliances would again only make decisions to benefit themselves. This would in turn cause countries to form “shallow” (only for success) alliances, in which they would destroy other alliances in. After all the countries fall, this would leave everything exposed for an anarchic takeover.

If respect’s definition became meaningless and all signs of it disappeared, society would be unable to function. This is due to the common aspects of life such as helping others, self-restraint, and peace becoming entirely redundant. After reading about how the lack of respect may affect the world one may wonder, “How can I prevent this from happening?” The answer is to always show respect when it is deserved, and encourage others to show respect by becoming a role model. This need for respect also extends to parents, as they need to teach their children what respect is and why it is needed. These simple actions would, in turn, slow or completely stop the destruction of respect.