

I have been writing about the character of David as an example of the kind of men or boys we want our daughters to date. I have written about his humility, his courage and his respect for his mother. Another admirable characteristic of David is his respect for authority.

Two times David had the opportunity to kill King Saul. Once, in a cave, David crept close enough to Saul to cut off a corner of his robe. (I Samuel 24). Another time, he got close enough to the sleeping king to take his sword and water jug. (I Samuel 26). Both times, he spared Saul's life because he was God's anointed. He showed further respect when he spoke to him by calling him, "my lord the king."

Today, many young people believe that they have the right to ignore authority with which they disagree. They display this attitude toward law enforcement officers, teachers, parents and adults in general. In addition to disobeying authority, they make rude remarks, make faces and display obscene signs toward authority figures. Young men who show respect for authority stand out from the crowd.

I substituted in the high school counseling office two years ago. A young man came into my office about his schedule. It was after school hours so he had a cap. He stood, almost at attention, in front of my desk with his cap in his hand. He introduced himself and respectfully made his request concerning his schedule, using my name and "Ma'am" as he spoke. That young man went to be with the Lord less than a year later. When I saw his picture in the paper, I instantly remembered my very brief encounter with him. That kind of respect for authority makes a lasting impression.

Always invite the young men in your daughter's life into the family room to meet you. It may be a little tough on him, but it allows your daughter to observe his behavior toward you. If you have taught your daughter about the importance of respect for authority, you do not need to comment on his behavior. She will be observing his actions through your eyes. That will speak volumes to her. In fact, unless you want to compliment his behavior, your silence will be your most effective teaching tool.