

The Dignity of Simplicity

We live in a complex, fast-paced world with change occurring all around us – in health care, technology, education, business, social issues and, well, you name it! If we are not careful, trying to keep up in this race called life can have a negative impact on interpersonal relationships.

It's a good time to slow down, catch our breath, and consider some advice offered by John C. Maxwell, one of my favorite authors and an internationally recognized expert on leadership development. Here is what he said:

“There is great dignity in simplicity. Most of the immortal works of literature not only have the brilliance of brevity, but also the dignity of simplicity. The Lord's Prayer consists of only 57 words, none more than two syllables. The Declaration of Independence, which revolutionized the thinking of the entire world, can be read by a fourth-grader in less than five minutes. Simplicity is eloquent; it speaks loud and clear without insulting the intelligence of the listener.”

Dignity, according to a Noah Webster dictionary, is defined as: “True honor. Nobleness or elevation of mind. Consisting in a high sense of propriety, truth and justice, with an abhorrence of mean and sinful actions. It's elevation; degree of excellence, either in estimation or in the order of nature.”

In light of this definition and what Maxwell said, consider ...

- A parent or teacher who treats a child with dignity builds the self-esteem of the child and automatically increases the child's performance, which generally improves the child's conduct.
- An employer who treats employees with respect and dignity builds loyalty and increases productivity.
- Treating another person, regardless of age, with dignity happens when we courteously listen to him or her and respond in a thoughtful manner.

We treat others with dignity when we show them respect, regardless of their occupation, sex, race, creed or color. And when we treat others with respect and dignity, our own self-respect and sense of dignity improve.

These are among the pillars upon which Life Care is built – in particular, toward our residents. Our Mission and Values statement proclaims: “We believe in the preservation of dignity, self-respect and resident rights in a loving and caring environment.”

Simplicity and dignity make a powerful combination. When we strive for dignity and use simplicity as a yardstick, we've just elevated our possibilities for accomplishment.

– Beecher Hunter