

EKTIMIS.com Quote of the Month

Date March, 2011

“Each new day presents an opportunity to restore or preserve one's self-respect; the wise almost always seize the opportunity daily.”

James was preparing to wrap up for the day, go home, and share the good news with his wife—about his promotion to a management level at his place of work. The advancement meant a significant pay raise along with increased management visibility. He had worked very hard to earn the promotion.

Shortly before close of business, one of James' new peers stopped by to invite him out for drinks with a dozen other managers. The invitation was music to his ears—he was being unofficially inducted by his new peers. “What a cool move,” he thought. Later that evening they were assembled at a local bar, with offers from two long-time managers to buy him drinks. “What'll it be James—beer, whiskey, gin and tonic?” But, James quickly realized the situation at hand. It had been almost a year since he had a drink—he was a recovering alcoholic. The habit had almost destroyed his marriage and career. He now had a decision to make—a wise choice or a foolish one.

As we go through life, each and every day presents an opportunity for us to restore or preserve something very precious, something very important to our character, something that establishes our self-worth—our self-respect. While it takes a lifetime to cultivate one's self-respect, it can take one foolish decision to undermine, diminish, or destroy it.

Many of us spend a lot of time, energy and money maintaining or preserving a house, an automobile, or an antique possession. How about your self-respect? How much is it worth to you?

(Comments are welcome at ektimis.com or at my Blog: <http://thetoptenlawsofrespect.wordpress.com>)

About the Author



Niyi Taiwo is the founder of EKTIMIS and the lead editor for the [EKTIMIS eLibrary articles](#). He is a speaker and the author of several books, including the [EKTIMIS Top Ten Laws series](#). He is a continuous improvement expert with over 21 years of industry experience – operational, management and consulting. He has been studying the topic of respect since 2004. He holds an undergraduate degree from WPI and a master's degree from RPI. He is an organizational improvement and diversity consultant, a certified Lean Expert and an ASQ-certified Six Sigma Black Belt.