

Respect Factoid 3 – Dual Perspectives

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“There are two perspectives to respect—the visible and the invisible. The visible is manifested in the form of behavior while the invisible is manifested in the form of a thought process.”

When you think of respect, what comes to mind? When a teenage son adheres to the rules established by his parents in a home, then the son is considered respectful of his parents. When a parent returns home drunk after a night out with friends, then the parent is considered to exhibit low self-respect and little respect for his household. When your boss utters profanity toward you in response to an apparent dissatisfaction with your work, then he is deemed disrespectful—if not abusive. Most people associate and describe respect—or disrespect—in terms of action and behavior exhibited by someone.

However, actions and behavior only represent one perspective of respect—the visible. What often precedes your actions and behavior is a thought process—the invisible part of respect. This (invisible) part represents the second perspective of respect. It is rooted in an attitude based in your mind, and is powered by a powerful engine—your value system (your mental process of evaluating people and things around you). If you wish to raise a respectful child, focus on the second perspective of respect. If you wish to enrich your personal relationships, work on the invisible side of respect. Lastly, if you wish to improve your workplace culture, spend more time understanding the latter perspective.

The invisible part of respect is a central theme in [The Top Ten Laws of Respect body of principles](#) and the [book series](#). The invisible part is also a significant essence of the [EKTIMIS Respect Model](#)—a graphical view of the various components of respect designed to better understand the concept.

(Comments are welcome at <http://ektimis.com/articleslibraryfeedbackform.aspx>)

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.