

EKTIMIS.com Quote of the Month

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“Respect is a currency of human valuation.”

How much do you think you are worth?—and I am not referring to monetary worth. How much do you value yourself? How much do others value you? These questions present a challenge: can you put a valuation on a person?

Of course, the answer is yes. We establish value for ourselves and others around us all the time and we have been doing it from the time we were little children. The process takes place in our minds—it is a mental process. And the outcome is a measure of respect. This is one part of the essence of respect and it is embodied in the first law of *The Top Ten Laws of Respect*.

Much like you appraise a car or a house the outcome of an appraisal can vary based on a variety of factors and the method being used to perform the appraisal. So also, the outcome of our mental process of appraising ourselves and other people can vary. This is the reason why respect is a relative concept. You can respect one person more than another person today, and the reverse may hold true tomorrow. In either case, you still respect both individuals at some level.

The more important question, however, is how much you respect yourself—in other words, how much self-respect do you hold? The more self-respect you command, the more likely others will respect you fairly; the less self-respect you hold, the less likely others will respect you fairly. I cover this concept extensively in each of *The Top Ten Laws of Respect* books.

So, how much do you think you are worth? How much do you value yourself? Do your actions reflect your worth? How much do others value you? The currency in play here is respect.

(Comments are welcome 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 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 a certified Lean Expert and an ASQ-certified Six Sigma Black Belt.