



Classroom Rules... or ...God's Rules

By Becky Ramsey, Christian School Representative

I was perusing through new bulletin board ideas for this school year. My eyes fell upon one that was quite captivating and held the essential rules, and I wanted to utilize that idea in my classroom. I thought it would hold my students' interest. It had Mr. Potato Head parts colorfully placed to capture students' interest and point out what their important body parts should be doing when they came to my classroom! Eyes, ears, mouths, hands, and feet need to know exactly what are expected of them when they go to school, you know.

As I decided to save the idea, I heard my heavenly Father gently whisper, "That idea is not just a set of classroom rules, you know. Looking eyes, listening ears, quiet mouths, helping hands, and walking feet are rules that I have given to you as well, rules that you often forget." So I turned to his Word, and I chose to remember the classroom rules that he has given as important rules for us to follow in his Word.

Looking eyes—How can we guide our students if they do not keep their eyes on our instructions? We want them to see the flash cards we are holding or the smart board map we are using and not be distracted. In the Word, Paul challenges us to keep our

eyes on Christ our Savior. Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) says: “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” If we keep our eyes on Christ, rather than the world or our own problems, we will not lose sight of what he has for us.

Listening ears—Teachers want the students to listen to their instructions instead of other distracting voices around them. There will always be voices that try to distract students from focusing on their goals. But God’s Word clearly teaches that his sheep know his voice and will listen and follow him (John 10:27, NIV). James 1:22 (NIV) states: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Quiet mouths—If there was an attribute that I was lenient on in the classroom, it was talking. As a student, I was always in trouble for talking. Now as a teacher, I understand what a blessing quiet mouths are in a classroom. That is why the scripture that says, “Everyone should be quick to listen...” is quickly followed by ... “and slow to speak” (James 1:19, NIV). Those qualities go together; listening requires silencing our mouths long enough to let someone else do some of the talking. Sometimes the one we need to be listening to is the Creator himself. Prayer is not always telling things to God. Many times, prayer means remaining quiet and listening to his voice of direction.

Helping hands—Teamwork is an important quality to learn in a classroom. Teamwork is necessary before much learning can begin. There is no place for super stars, solo performances, or prima donnas. A classroom where students find the unique talents of each member and put them to use for different projects will be the classroom that far outshines any other in the building. Where does our true help come from? Psalm 121 proclaims: “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” And when we pattern our life after our Maker, we can be a helping hand to those around us whether it is a co-worker, a parent, or a child in our classroom.

Walking feet—While we may be tempted to run or jog to try to get ahead, we need to walk faithfully in the path that Christ has set before us. For he will direct us clearly to the door we need to walk through. Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) promises: “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”

Therefore, whether in our classroom or in our life, Mr. Potato Head’s parts can quickly remind us of some good classroom rules and of God’s important rules.

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