

# **“Filial Piety & Good Leadership”**

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All the positive social relationships to attain peace and harmony in a society must start with the practice of filial piety or respect at home, perhaps similar to the English proverb “*charity begins at home*”.

# **What is Filial Piety?**

**Filial** refers to the duties, feelings, or relationships which exist between a son/daughter and his/ her parents.

**Piety** is a strong religious belief, or behavior that is religious or morally correct.

**Filial piety** is the virtue of a child to his or her parents or parental figures, both living and deceased.

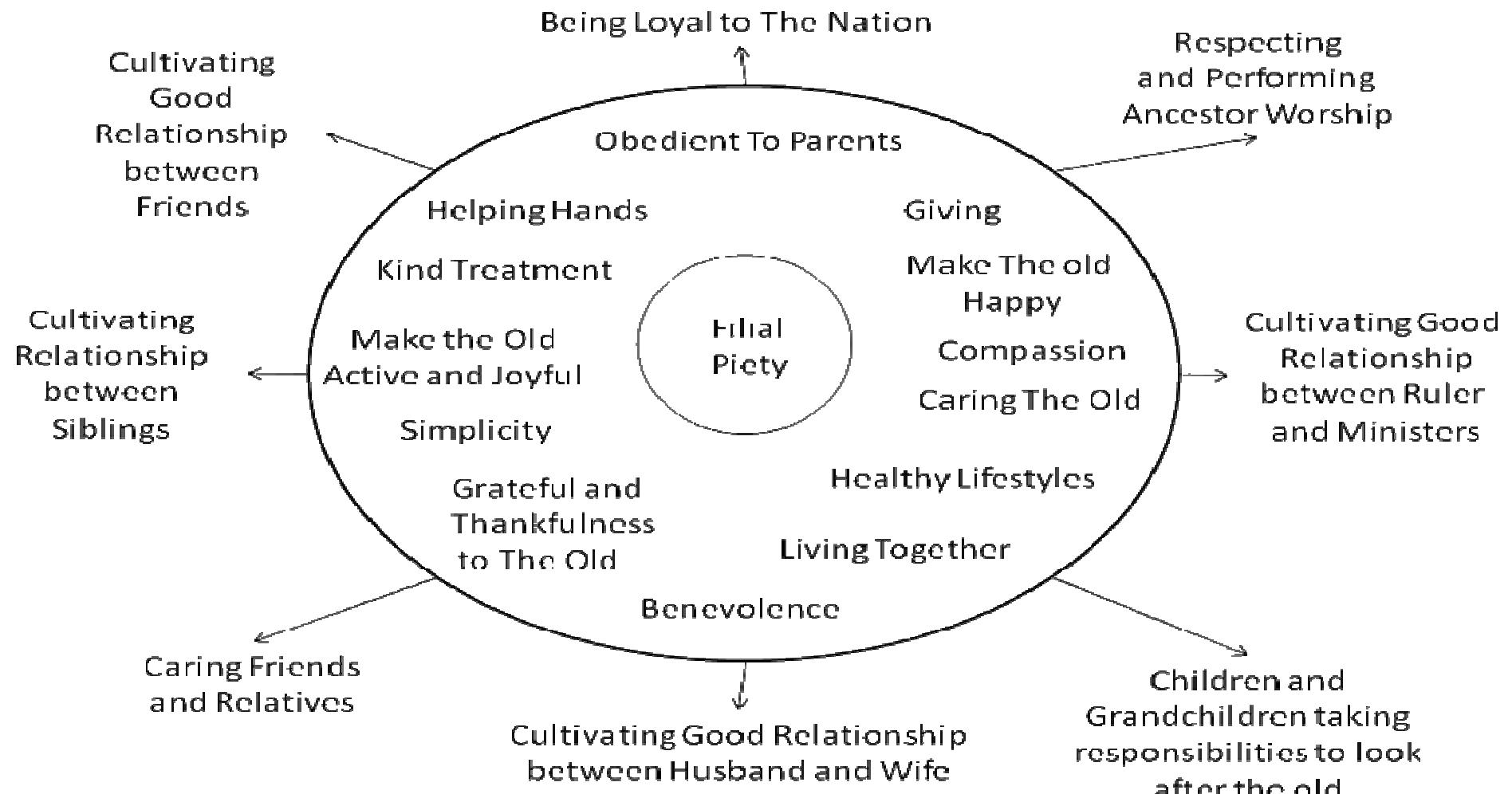


Figure-1 Filial Piety and The Positive Social Relationship

**The practice of filial piety enables a leader to have the appropriate emotions and inner states as well as moving him or her to act in a virtuous way.** A virtuous or good leader develops through learning and practice. The road to becoming virtuous requires a leader to be consistently motivated by moral goods in his or her actions. After a time of repeating such actions, (s)he acquires good habits leading to good leadership.

**What is  
Good Leadership?**

Leadership, the driving force of organizations, often plays an important role in every profit or non-profit organization, society, and nation (Low, 2010).

Leadership is “about creating the climate or culture where people are inspired from the inside out” (Wilson, 2008, pp. 9; Low, 2011a).

Leadership can also be defined as the process of influencing others to facilitate the attainment of organizational relevant goals and this definition is applicable to both formal and informal leadership position in order to exert leadership behavior. (Ivancevich et al., 2008, pp. 413).

Confucius said, “If the ruler acts properly, the common people will obey him without being ordered to; if the ruler does not act properly, the common people will not obey him even after repeated injunctions.” (*Analects of Confucius* XIII: 6)

‘When leaders act with values – that is, when they show their goodness, values, and positivity – the effects are great, enlarged because leaders serve as vision creators, exemplars and sources of recognition and rewards; and good feelings or positive emotions also occur among members within the organization’. (Bacon, 2012: ix; cited in Low, 2011a).

In the similar way, leaders who practice the value of filial piety would lead well or in other words, attain good leadership. And this does not stop here; continuous efforts are made to improve the leadership ways.

### The Practice Of Filial Piety

### Core Values Supporting Good Leadership

- Children And Grandchildren Look After The Old And the Elderly
- Cultivating Good relationship Between:
  - Siblings
  - Husband And Wife
  - Relatives
  - Friends
  - Ruler And Ministers
- Respecting And Performing Ancestor Worship Together To Enhance Unity And Harmony Amongst Siblings, families And relatives
- Caring Friends And Relatives
- Being Loyal To Nation

### A Good Leader

- Treating Followers/ Supporters With Respect
- Leading By Ongoing Responsive Relationship
- Understanding The Situation/Environment
- Being Ethical
- Embracing Peace And Harmony

Figure 2 The Practice Of Filial Piety Supporting Good Leadership

# **Q & A**

# **session**