

(The Final, Pre-Election)
Model of Respect: David Gergen

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ARIZONA REPUBLICANS WHO BELIEVE IN TREATING OTHERS WITH RESPECT

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An American political commentator and former presidential adviser who served during the administrations of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. He is currently a senior political analyst for CNN and a professor of public service and the founding director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School. Gergen is also the former editor at large of *U.S. News and World Report*.

[The Single Most Important Quality a President Must Have](#)

(*CNN* Opinion Piece written by David Gergen and published today)

One night after moving into a brand new White House in November 1800, then-President John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail and included a short prayer: "I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House, and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men [and Women] ever rule under this roof."

...

These sentiments about honor and wisdom, shared for over two centuries by our best presidents, are now at the center of this year's presidential contest. We are in the midst of a political crisis, searching for leaders we can trust. There was a time in the mid-20th century when we took for granted that our presidents would be and would command respect. No longer.

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First, our next president should set a new tone in the White House on day one, proclaiming that honesty, dignity and respect for others will be the new marching orders.

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Second, our next president needs every department to review and refresh its ethics codes and then require every new political appointee to attend no-nonsense briefings on what is in bounds and what is out of bounds.

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Third, our next president needs to review and overhaul those who now serve as inspectors general across the federal landscape... The Offices of Inspectors General need a thorough

scrubbing and perhaps a fresh start, with new appointees who are, as the old saying goes, cleaner than a hound's teeth.

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So, the question before us is simple: Will the wise and the honest prevail over the next four years? The answer really rests with you, the voters. You are the ultimate stewards of our democracy.

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