

What Does the Bible Teach About Courtesy?

Luke 17:11-19

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- Luke 17:11-19
- “Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of the pleasures; it costs nothing and conveys much. It pleases him who gives and him who receives, and thus, like mercy, it is twice blessed.” (Erastus Wiman)

Why Is Courtesy Important?

- Success in this world is based on how well we relate to everything around us.
- Seeing ourselves as separate from the whole leads us to judge, condemn, criticize, and compete. Most of the population is living in their own self-created bubble. Living in the bubble, they act with complete disregard of the people around them.
- When we are calm, our interactions with others are more meaningful, because we are actively listening and giving honest responses.

Why Is Courtesy Important?

- People seem to be increasing in rudeness
- Rudeness is glorified in the news and entertainment media; Some think the only way to get attention or a laugh is to be crude.
- Disrespect characterizes much of the behavior in social media. There is no way to filter or correct it.
- Violent protests in speech and behavior, foolishly believing it is the only way to be heard

Disrespect Is Not Just A Contemporary Problem

- Lam. 5:12 - “Elders were not respected”
- Rom. 1:30 - “Violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents”
- 2Tim. 3:3-4 - “Unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”

Disrespect Is Not Just A Contemporary Problem

- Christians need to be seen in contrast to the world
 - Phil. 2:15 - “That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”
 - John 15:19 - “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Disrespect Is Not Just A Contemporary Problem

- Eph. 5:8-11 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

A Christian Owes Respect And Honor

- Rom. 13:7 - “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”
 - Tribute - personal or property taxes for living within a country
 - Custom - tolls and fees
 - Fear - to hold in awe, to give respect
 - Honor - to esteem or hold in honor, to prize
- 1Peter 2:17 - “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

A Christian Owes Respect And Honor

- Respect for employers
 - Eph. 6:5 - “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ”
 - 1Peter 2:18 - “Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.”

A Christian Owes Respect And Honor

- Respect for parents
 - Eph. 6:2 - “Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise”
- There are three levels of obedience:
 - Disobedient - Not doing what one is instructed
 - Obedient without honor - Doing, but grudgingly because one has to
 - Obedient with honor - Doing it willingly and without grumbling

A Christian Owes Respect And Honor

- Respect for the elderly
 - Lev. 19:32 - “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.”

Tactful Is The Opposite Of Insulting

- Col. 4:6 - "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."
- Eph. 4:29 - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."
- Ecc. 10:12 - "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up"

Tactful Is The Opposite Of Insulting

- Prov. 16:21-24 - “The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning. 22 Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly. 23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips. 24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”
- At times hard things must be said, but they must be said well with the intent to be accepted. Say it as you would want to hear it.

Show Respect In Dress

- Matt. 22:11 - "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment."
- John 21:7 - "Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea."

Show Respect In Dress

- Modesty shows respect toward others
 - 1Tim. 2:9-10 - “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

Show Respect In Greetings

- Luke 10:5 - “But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’”
- Luke 10:38 - “Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.”

Show Respect In Greetings

- Our relationships are affirmed by affectionate welcomes
 - Rom. 16:16 - “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.”
 - Phil. 4:21 - “Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.”
 - 1Peter 5:14 - “Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - Luke 7:36-47

Show Respect When Listening

- Luke 2:46 - "Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions."
- Luke 10:39-42 - "And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
- James 1:19 - "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"

Show Respect In Treatment Of Others

- Luke 6:31 - “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”
- Phil. 2:3-4 - “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Show Respect In Treatment Of Others

- Luke 14:8-11 - “When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Show Respect With Hospitality

- Hospitality is a love of strangers; love shown for people you do not yet know.
 - Luke 14:12-14 - “Then He also said to him who invited Him, When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”
- True hospitality doesn't find reasons to complain
 - 1Peter 4:9 - “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

Show Respect By Contentment

- Eat what is presented without complaint
 - Luke 10:7-8 - “And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you.”
 - 1Cor. 10:27 - “If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.”

Show Respect By Contentment

- Be content in every situation
 - Phil. 4:11-12 - “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”
- Complaining is a discourtesy
 - 1Cor. 10:10 - “Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

Show Respect By Contentment

- Complaining dims our light
 - Phil. 2:14-16 - “Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

Show Respect With Gratitude

- Luke 17:15-16 - “And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.”
- 2Tim. 3:2 - “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy”

Courtesy and Character

- There is a courtesy of the heart; it is allied to love. From its springs the purest courtesy in the outward behavior. (Goethe)
- He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love. (Basil)