

Should Good Manners Be A Part of The Christian Lifestyle?

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**Will you commit to improve
your manners by working on
the following areas?**

A
public behaviour." Surprisingly, some persons view good manners as merely a cultural thing which stuck-up people try to impose on others. While we cannot ignore the fact that (1) good manners vary from culture to culture; and (2) culture helps to define what is socially acceptable behaviour, we should never overlook the solid biblical guidelines about practicing good manners. Here are a few Scripture verses on which to reflect:

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I [am] the LORD." (Lev. 19:32)

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." (Lk. 6:31)

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Eph. 4:29)

- Public place
(Remember during worship phones should be on vibrate /silent or even turned off so worshippers would not be distracted from what they came to do, that is, worship).
- Use polite phone protocol whether or not you know the person at the other end of the line and whether or not that person knows there is such a thing as phone protocol.
- Keep the noise level of your portable music down when you are out and about. You have no right to assault the eardrums of those who do not want to hear your kind of music or who cannot stand the intensity of the decibels. Did you know that exposure to high level of noise increases both heart rate and blood pressure?



- Put away your rubbish whether you are at home, at church or elsewhere. Why should someone else take responsibility for your trash?

- **Greet people warmly and cultivate the habit of smiling back when someone smiles at you.**



- Look people in the eye when they are speaking to you (When in church pay attention to the preacher and ensure that your school-age children do the same! Why train your children to believe that it is O. K. to do things other than worship in the house of worship at the time of worship?)

- Show respect for other people's time and make every effort to show up when others are expecting you. We know how disrespected we feel when others treat our time in a don't-care manner. And, by the way, coming to church on time is one way of showing respect (1) to God who is always on time; (2) to the leaders who would have planned with you in mind; and (3) to those who are punctual who are sometimes robbed of an early start because you show up late)

- Return what you borrowed and offer to replace what you have defaced or destroyed
- Speak courteously to others and always try to put them at ease .Be courteous as well when speaking of them in their absence
- Show respect to seniors by addressing them properly and by helping to make their life more comfortable

- **Do not point or stare at people who are disabled or who are "different" in some other way**



- Show your appreciation by saying "Thank you" after someone does something for you.

- Say 'please' when making a request

- **Say "sorry" when you have hurt someone. Don't be like the girl at the movie theater who, when returning to her seat, taps the shoulder of the man in the last seat in the row. "Excuse me," she says, "but did I step on your toe on the way to the bathroom?" "As a matter of fact, you did," says the man, expecting an apology. "Oh good," says the girl, "then this is my row."**



The above list is by no means exhaustive. Take some time and think of some other ways we can show good manners. Don't you agree that life will be a lot more pleasant if we all commit to practicing them? ♦