

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

July 15, 2014

Issue No. 153 Mark Aites, Editor

Manners

"Good manners are appreciated as much as bad manners are abhorred." – Bryant H. McGill

"Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot." – Clarence Thomas

"Manners are the basic building blocks of civil society." – Alexander McCall Smith

"You learn, just as you learn good manners, how to approach things with a certain amount of diplomacy." – Robert McNeil

"Manners are one of the greatest engines of influence ever given to man." – Richard Whitely

Manners obviously has to do with one's behavior. You would tend to think it is not a problem among Christians, but in reality, sometimes Christian conduct can be shameful.

One of the greatest sayings of our Lord refers to this very thing. As the disciples were going out on the Limited Commission (to the lost sheep of the house of Israel), the Lord clearly stated, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

What a shame that good brethren have not yet realized that the manner in which we act can have a powerful affect upon those that hear what we say. A polite, courteous, tender approach can have a greater effect than a crass, straight-forward, abrupt and callous speech. Someone once said that you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

This writer, in delivering a sermon, was once told, "That was the most loving sermon I ever heard on Hell." The truth is precious. But so is the manner in which we present ourselves and that message.

It is sad to see good brethren with virtually no good manners. And then to top it off, hear them relate Gospel truths with the tact of a rough piece of sandpaper.

People take notice if we use good manners. They take notice in how we present ourselves. If you want them to hear the truths of God's Word, then you need to be very careful in your manner of life and how you deal with others. If you use good manners and are polite and courteous, quite often it will open the door for another opportunity which could make the difference!

It is discouraging to hear people speak to you about the ill-mannered preachers or church members they have come across. In such instances you have to work twice as hard to make them realize that you have the manners of a gentleman or gentlewoman. With extra suspicion and trepidation, they slowly will realize that you are sincere and loving and a soul just might be saved!